

STARS AND STRIPES®

Bon Jovi stands the test of time with straightforward rock

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Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi

Report: Giants' Bonds testified to unknowing use of steroids

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Barry Bonds

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004

50¢

Lost, stolen ID cards a growing concern

12,600 missing IDs in Europe this year is potential security problem Page 3

A hero's welcome



CARMEN L. BURGESS/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Andrew Butterworth, a National Guardsman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment in North Carolina, looks at the memorial set up in the Pentagon for the military and civilian casualties of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Butterworth was part of a VIP tour Friday for 35 wounded veterans being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and their families. The Pentagon invited all 22,000 of its employees to welcome them. See more photos on Page 10.

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Scene on Sunday

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

BTK killings: A man whose arrest sparked speculation of a link to the decades-old Kansas BTK serial killings case was released on bond after a court appearance on two unrelated misdemeanor counts.

The man was arrested at his home Wednesday night on minor trespassing and housing code violations, and state police said his DNA was being tested to see if there was any link to the man sought for eight unsolved homicides between 1974 and 1986.

He appeared before Wichita Municipal Judge Jennifer Jones, who reduced his bond Thursday from \$17,500 to \$6,125 and ordered him to return to court next month. He then was released from jail.

"We have not, I repeat, have not, made an arrest in connection to BTK," the Wichita police chief said at a news conference.

Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's sister-in-law tearfully described the former fertilizer salesman as thoughtful and sincere to the 12 people who must decide his punishment for killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Janey Peterson took the stand Thursday, the third day in the penalty phase of her brother-in-law's murder trial. She joined other family members and friends in trying to convince jurors that Peterson should not receive the death penalty for the 2002 murders of Laci and the 8-month-old fetus she was carrying. The other possible sentence for Peterson is life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Defense attorneys are trying to persuade jurors to spare Peterson's life with testimony about his childhood years and how a death sentence would affect his family members' lives.

Smuggling trial: One of three defendants on trial for his role in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants was eager to join the smuggling ring linked to the fatalities, according to one of the members of the group.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez, Claudia Carrizales de Villa and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar are on trial for their roles in an operation that was tried to transport more than 70 immigrants from south Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Authorities found 17 immigrants dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

Defense attorneys for the three have said their clients had minimal involvement.

Wash. governor's race: Washington's Democratic gubernatorial candidate — trailing her GOP rival by just 42 votes — on Thursday urged her party to order a statewide head recount of all 2.8 million votes for governor, regardless of the cost.

"My request of the state Democratic Party



Israel unrest: Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, left, forcefully grabs the microphone from Israeli Labor party lawyer Moshe Shahal during a party convention in Tel Aviv on Tuesday. When Shahal stood on stage during the convention to speak, Barak rushed onstage, grabbed the microphone from Shahal and accused party members of trying to steal the party.

is simple: Count the entire state or don't count at all," Christine Gregoire said in a statement released by her campaign office.

The recount cost at least 25 cents a ballot. The party said the cost of a full recount would exceed \$1 million. By late Thursday, the Democrats had about \$650,000 of the approximately \$750,000 deposit that would be required for a full recount by the 5 p.m. Friday state deadline, said Kirstin Brost, the state party spokeswoman.

War on terrorism

Pfc. England court-martial: Prosecutors in the court-martial of Pfc. Lyndie England may use two statements she gave describing the posing of naked Iraqi prisoners as "joking around, having fun," a military judge has ruled.

Defense attorneys had sought to keep out the January statements, saying England was coerced by military interrogators who pulled her out of bed in the middle of the night, kept her in closed rooms for hours and failed to fully inform her of her right to have a lawyer present.

The judge, Col. Stephen Henley, did agree to keep out a third statement that England made to investigators on May 5, a few weeks after the photos taken at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison were made public and England had invoked her right to an attorney.

World

Kosovo's new prime minister: Kosovo lawmakers on Friday elected as prime minister a former rebel commander who recently was questioned by U.N. war crimes investigators.

The 120-seat parliament voted 72 votes to 3 for ethnic Albanian Ramush Haradinaj to head the new Kosovo government, ignoring concerns that the move could add to the province's tensions.

Members of the second-biggest party, the Democratic Party of Kosovo, led by another former rebel leader, abstained.

Western officials were concerned about the election of 36-year-old Haradinaj to the post, fearing that he may be indicted for war crimes by a U.N. tribunal — a development that could destabilize the tense province.

Military

Naval Academy gay alumni: The governing board of the Naval Academy Alumni Association has rejected a bid from graduates who sought to establish a predominantly gay and lesbian alumni chapter. The decision Thursday marked the second time in two years the Naval Academy's alumni association rejected the gay group, whose members believe it is the first such chapter to seek recognition from a U.S. service academy.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Clarification

A story in Friday's edition about an increase in post allowance for U.S. civilians living in Europe may have confused some readers. The post allowance payment made to U.S. civilians living overseas represents a percentage increase over Washington cost-of-living, applied to "spendable income."

Therefore, 25 percent in the post allowance tables means goods and services are 25 percent more expensive in Europe than Washington.

Increasing the post allowance from 25 percent to 30 percent in the tables represents an actual 20 percent increase in post allowance.

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NCUA

Missing ID cards concern Europe officials

1,000 military cards are lost or stolen each month, increasing chances of unauthorized base access

By KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

More than 1,000 military identification cards are lost or stolen each month in Europe, potentially opening base gates to terrorists or setting up troops to have their identities stolen.

So far this year, U.S. Army Europe has replaced 9,600 missing or stolen cards, while U.S. Air Forces in Europe has given out about 3,000 replacement cards. The Navy — with the smallest population among the services in Europe — did not provide specific figures, but said its numbers were much lower.

Replaced cards make up about 10 percent of the IDs handed out every year, military officials said.

With the potential for terrorism looming, the issue has raised concern — particularly with the Army, although officials can't point to a specific incident of someone trying to use a stolen ID card to gain access to a base.

"Every lost ID card can be translated into a possible unauthorized entrance to our installations and housing areas," according to Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, commander of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) in Vicenza, Italy.

Kamiya recently raised the issue in the 22nd Area Support Group's newspaper, The Outlook. In Vicenza, 522 cards were reported missing in the first nine months of 2004, more than half belonging to active-duty personnel.

In addition to the obvious potential for unauthorized access to bases, those who lose their cards are opening themselves up to other problems.



The Army and Air Force in Europe have reported a combined 12,600 missing or stolen cards this year.

"This can be compared to giving a stranger the keys to your house and the personal identification numbers to your personal bank accounts," Kamiya wrote.

In the last five years, 27.3 million Americans have been victims of identity theft, including 9.9 million people in 2002 alone, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

"The information on your ID card provides possible criminals everything they need to cause you serious, and sometimes permanent, financial harm," Kamiya wrote.

Military officials say they can't calculate the loss in money and manpower it takes to replace ID cards. The Army says it costs \$4.25 to replace the card given to soldiers and civilian employees, who receive about 75 percent of the cards issued.

The replacement cost of cards given to most family members is 50 cents.

But Millie Waters, a public affairs officer for the Installation Management Agency-Europe, said there's no way to calculate the time away from work that people spend while trying to replace their cards.

In Italy, Kamiya has promised that his

command would take action against those thought to be acting irresponsibly with their cards. Pointing out that 37 people in Vicenza had lost more than one card during the year, he said active-duty personnel and civilians face counseling and potential punishments if they're judged to be negligent.

Servicemembers could even face "severe administrative actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice," Kamiya stated.

Early reporting

Once a servicemember notifies that his ID is missing, he needs to tell the security personnel right away, said Lt. Col. Kar McKinney, chief of law enforcement division for the USAREUR provost marshal.

The introduction of the Installation Access Control System should make it much harder for those with stolen cards to get on base, McKinney said. That's because the scanners that check the cards will help guards tell if a card has been reported stolen.

The Army says it is about halfway through its IACS installation process, with the Air Force expected to start installing the system early next year.

But IACS won't be able to detect stolen cards unless cardholders report them to base authorities.

Even better, McKinney said, is to keep it safe in the first place.

"An ID card should be considered a sensitive document and appropriately safeguarded as such," she said.

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Army program helps soldiers heal injuries closer to home

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Many activated Army reservists who are injured or sick can now receive treatment near home, rather than being forced to stay on "medical hold" at a base that may be hundreds of miles away.

Army officials announced the new Community-Based Health Care Initiative program at the Pentagon on Thursday.

"I spent nine months at Fort Drum [N.Y.], during predeployment and didn't get to see my family that much," Staff Sgt. Said Rodriguez Scott, a 48-year-old target acquisition specialist for the Massachusetts National Guard's 101st Field Artillery, "Now I'm going home every night."

Scott, who works as a divorce mediator in his civilian life, received back, neck and arm injuries Sept. 17 in Afghanistan.

The program gives soldiers like Scott and Sgt. Logan Brown, a 21-year-old from Arkansas, who was hit by shrapnel and received multiple wounds when his Humvee was attacked in Iraq,

a chance to ease back into civilian life.

"When you're in constant danger every day of your life," Brown said, "you're on the defense all the time."

The program, in which reservists do light duty at their home station between medical appointments, gives soldiers "that calming time with your loved ones, and the stable order" of a familiar military environment, Brown said.

The initiative was devised after news stories surfaced in October 2003 about hundreds of Guardsmen and reservists who were stuck for months at Fort Stewart, Ga., waiting to be evaluated and treated.

Army officials blamed a system unprepared to deal with large numbers of reservists getting activated; 4,850 reservists wound up on medical hold.

In March, Reginald Brown, the Army's Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, assembled a task force to find a solution.

Brown's team developed a pilot program that opened "Community Health Care Organizations" in



Col. Michael Deaton

Arkansas, Florida, California, Massachusetts and Wisconsin. The first center opened in Florida in March, and all five were operational by late June, said Col. Michael Deaton, a family practice physician for the Army's Office of the Surgeon General.

Together, the five centers provide coverage for reservists who live in 23 states, Deaton said.

That is not enough to provide services for all 4,300 Army reservists who are now in medical hold status, Deaton said; just 1,100 of them are enrolled in the new program.

But with a program budget of \$23 million for fiscal 2005, the Army will open centers in Virginia, Alabama and Utah by March, Deaton said.

Most reservists will spend no more than one year in the voluntary program, although the Army may extend that time, Deaton said.

More severely injured soldiers from all components are eligible for a different Army program called the "Disabled Soldier Support System," or DS3, at: www.ArmyDS3.org.

Sgt. Christopher Dunbar, a 25-year-old military policeman with the 810th MP Company, a Reserve unit based in Tampa, Fla., is another participant.

Dunbar was injured in a May 4 vehicle accident while providing security for a conveyance moving to Tallil, Iraq. He was just five days short of a full year in Iraq when his lower jaw was broken and many of his top teeth were shattered beyond salvation.

Dunbar ended up back at Fort Stewart, Ga., placed on medical hold more than 300 miles away from his home in Tampa.

"I did not have a pleasant experience," Dunbar said. While the medical treatment was competent, "it felt like an assembly line."

After a physician realized the severity of the soldier's condition and sent him home for 30 days of convalescence leave, Dunbar was assigned to the Community-Based Health Care pilot program in Plant City, Fla.

Today, Dunbar works at his duty station at Plant City five days a week when he is not receiving medical treatment at MacDill Air Force Base.

"I had a hard time adjusting to civilian life when I got back," he said. "When you get back home, it's like someone pulling the parking break when you're going 100 miles per hour. Your face hits the windshield."

With the new program, "instead of getting thrown into the water, you have some floats on," Dunbar said.

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Rich Little to tour Europe

Kermit the Frog will be saying, "Hello, everybody," while Arnold Schwarzenegger gets pumped up, and Jack Nicholson goes nuts during a USO tour at U.S. mili-

tary bases in Italy and Turkey.

Not really, but it will seem that way. Long-standing master impressionist Rich Little, best known for his acts of movie stars and presidents in the 1960s, will be duping troops with his latest acts

Dec. 8-15.

Little will entertain servicemembers during his visit to three bases in Italy and Turkey, aboard an aircraft carrier off the coast of Italy, and during scheduled autograph signings.

During his tour, Little will be drawing from more than 200 impressions. Exact times and sites were not released.

For more information on USO tours go to www.uso.org.

From staff reports

Vilseck says goodbye to three fallen soldiers

Bryant, Martinez-Luis and Hayes all died in vehicle-related incidents while serving in Iraq

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

The Rose Barracks community in Germany honored three fallen soldiers in a memorial service at the Vilseck Chapel on Thursday.

The service originally was to remember two soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team: Sgt. Jack Bryant Jr., 23, of Dale City, Va., and Sgt. Trinidad Martinez-Luis, 22, of Los Angeles, Calif.

The third soldier, Spc. Erik W. Hayes, 24, of Cascade, Md., died Monday in Al Muqadiyah, Iraq, when a roadside bomb detonated near his military vehicle. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment.

Bryant died Nov. 20 in Muqadiyah when the bomb hit his convoy, which was then hit by a rocket-propelled grenade attack. He was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Forward Support Team (1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment).

Martinez-Luis died Sunday in Baqouba, Iraq, when his five-ton vehicle rolled over and pinned him under water. He was assigned to the 201st Forward Support Battalion.

Fellow soldiers and leaders described the three as dependable and well respected among their peers.

Sgt. Jack Bryant

Capt. Matthew Davenport read remarks from Capt. Jimmy Anderson made at Bryant's memorial service in Iraq on Sunday.

"When I first met [Bryant] during the rotation, there was some-



FRANZ ZEILMANN/Courtesy of U.S. Army

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Lang of the 3rd Brigade rear detachment speaks at a memorial service for Sgt. Jack Bryant Jr., Sgt. Trinidad Martinez-Luis and Spc. Erik Hayes on Thursday at the Vilseck Chapel in Germany.

thing about his enthusiasm and smile," Anderson said in the Iraq memorial service.

"It was contagious and infectious to all those who came in contact with him. He was a premier junior noncommissioned officer who clearly distinguished himself by graduating on the commandant's list during the Primary Leadership Development Course."

"As we congregate ... to celebrate the life of [Bryant], I must share with you that my heart is no longer filled with denial, anger and guilt. My heart is filled with the joy and admiration to have

been blessed to know Sergeant Bryant, blessed to have walked and talked with him ... He was a man of God, a beloved husband, a devoted father, a loving son and brother, a friend to you and I and a fallen American hero."

Bryant is survived by his wife, Kiona; son, Keshawn; parents, Linda and Jack Bryant; and two sisters, Jennifer and Denie.

Sgt. Trinidad Martinez-Luis

Capt. Steven Clark, 201st Forward Support Battalion, read re-

marks from the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Mitchell, made at Martinez-Luis' memorial ceremony at Forward Operating Base Warhorse on Dec. 1.

"Martinez worked in B Company's command post as a [nuclear, biological and chemical] NCO, and he was the go-to NCO for many tasks that were required to make the company run," Mitchell said during the service in Iraq.

"On Sunday, he was asked to transport soldiers to [Logistics Support Area] Anaconda for R&R leave. I think it is harder for us to accept his death because he died in an accident.

"There is no enemy to blame. We should take solace in the fact that he died in service to a noble cause. He came here, making selfless sacrifices, with the simple notion that all peoples in all nations have a right to live in a world free from tyranny, with the conviction that some principles in life are worth dying for."

Martinez-Luis is survived by his mother, Alba Luis, and brother Ulisses.

Spc. Erik Hayes

"[Hayes] was the consummate quiet professional," said Capt. Randall Lummer, Task Force 3-2 Infantry rear detachment commander, in remarks at the Vilseck service.

"A man of few words, he spoke in deep, gruff tones with a slow rhythm. In fact, that's kind of how he took on life — with a quiet resolve, unwavering persistence and unflinching perseverance."

Lummer said he spoke with Hayes' family, in Maryland, and fellow soldiers in Iraq.

"They talk of his selflessness and stress-free attitude," Lummer said. "His confidence that inspired respect, and his smile that inspired trust, led leaders across of his hallmark ability to take on the toughest jobs, find a solution and make things work, despite all odds. His leaders and peers alike all express their deepest, most heartfelt sorrow at his untimely departure from their ranks."

Hayes is survived by his fiancée, Nicole Thaker, and parents Douglas Hayes and Debra Reckly.

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Schweinfurt community gathers to remember Christensen

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

It was hard to get Spc. Jeremy Christensen out of his tank.

The 27-year-old soldier spent more than 3,000 hours on combat patrols aboard a M1 Abrams tank for Troop A of the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment since the unit arrived in Iraq in March. Once he did seven missions almost back to back, said Sgt. 1st Class Cesar Colon, who served in his unit.

On a routine patrol in Ad Duluyah early Saturday, a powerful roadside bomb made of three 155 mm artillery rounds exploded next to the tank Christensen was driving. Shrapnel from the blast killed him.

Soldiers and friends at the unit's home base in Schweinfurt, Germany, gathered in a chapel Friday to remember him, just as his deployed comrades did earlier this week at Forward Operating Base MacKenzie, the 1-4 Cavalry's headquarters in Iraq.

"He loved his family and peers, all while blessing his friends with his presence," said Spc. Darin Test, one of Christensen's closest friends. "He always made people laugh and made it a constant point to brighten everyone's days with humor."

Born in Las Vegas, Christensen grew up in Portland, Ore. After earning a high school equivalency degree, he served six years in the Oregon National Guard. He joined the Army shortly after the Sept. 11,



KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTM/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Nicholas Cook of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment salutes Spc. Jeremy Christensen, his fallen comrade, following a memorial service Friday at Schweinfurt, Germany. Darren Heard, right, serves in the honor guard.

2001, attacks.

"The reason he wanted to join the military was because of 9/11 and all the people who got killed on 9/11," Gerri Jimenez, a

friend from Albuquerque, N.M., told The Associated Press. "He thought he needed to serve his country and keep us safe."

Christensen joined the 1-4 Cavalry in

Schweinfurt in the fall of 2002 and became buddies with his platoon mates.

"We were inseparable, living life and exploring Europe together," Test said. "Whenever I needed something, be it money or a bite to eat or just someone to talk to, he was always there."

Through the high-pressure months of combat just east of Samarra in one of Iraq's most dangerous areas, he grew closer than ever with the men in his platoon.

"We shared our plans about when we would get back home, what we were going to do," said Spc. Steven Bishop, his close friend and platoon mate.

"He told anyone who wanted to know that he was going to buy a used pickup truck and an IROC-Z [sports car] when he got back to the States."

"I always told him that I would help him get a lady friend, and I finally had one for him to meet at the end of this deployment," Test said. "Sadly, that won't happen now."

Bishop is survived by his father, mother, stepmother, grandmother, and six brothers and sisters. In New Mexico, Christensen was living when he enlisted, Gov. Bill Richardson ordered flags across the state flown at half-staff in memory of Christensen and another soldier from the state who died Monday in Texas in a military helicopter crash.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

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Not everyone loves visiting with Santa



U.S. Army Santa visited the Mini-Mart at the Support Site in Grigignano, Italy, and tried to use a toy helicopter to distract 19-month-old Madison Kurth, who was not nearly as happy as her parents that St. Nick had come to town.

SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Congress eeing uneven VA checks

More than two years after congressional auditors scored it as a problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs still has no way to assess whether its 57 regional offices are consistent in deciding disability claims for veterans suffering from the same type and severity of impairment.

The Government Accountability Office, in recent briefings for two House subcommittees, said, "VA cannot provide reasonable assurance that similarly situated veterans who submit claims for the same impairment to different regional offices receive reasonably consistent decisions."

In other words, where veterans live and file disability claims could impact disability ratings and thus their compensation.

The report urged VA to use data collected through a newly implemented information system, called RBA 2000, to identify "indications" of inconsistencies among regional offices in award and denial of benefits. Then, where inconsistency even appears to exist for specific impairments, VA should conduct "systematic studies" of claim decisions for the specific ailments. The auditors indicated this process could take several years.

The greatest inconsistencies occur with mental disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, said Randy Reese, national service director for Disabled American Veterans.

"A lot of that has to do with how they interpret information," Reese said. "Some grant PTSD very liberally, using a broad and liberal interpretation of the law, a requirement" under Code of Federal Regulations guidelines. "In another region, it will be construed very narrowly."

Inconsistency in decision-making over PTSD is of particular concern now with so many soldiers and Marines exposed to trauma in Iraq. Mental health experts estimate that 15 to 17 percent of per-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

sonnel serving tours there will return with symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

A study published in July in the New England Journal of Medicine, written by Dr. Charles W. Hoge and five medical colleagues, found "a significant risk of mental health problems" for ground forces in Iraq. It also found "important barriers" to their receiving mental health services, "particularly the perception of stigma among those most in need."

The study found lower incidence of PTSD among service members sent to Afghanistan where combat has been less intense and troops are exposed to fewer bombings and ambushes by insurgents.

The VA had no immediate comment on the GAO finding but was preparing a statement for Congress. VA does not keep statistics on number of veterans receiving disability compensation for PTSD or other mental illnesses. It does keep data on users of VA health care.

The GAO, in its 2002 report, blamed inconsistencies involving disability claim decisions on the part of reviewers to use their own judgment. VA acknowledges, the report said, "that in many cases two adjudicators of equal competence could review the same evidence but render different decisions, due to the difficult judgment often required."

Reese said VA officials are very aware of the inconsistency issue. Indeed, two recent VA task forces, one of which Reese served on, recommended corrective steps. None will take effect for a few more years.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

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Why didn't all the pins go down?



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

A perplexed Chyenne Thomas, 8, couldn't figure out how her ball could have only claimed two pins at Friday's Special Olympics Bowling tournament at the Volgelsch bowling center in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The annual holiday season event drew about 160 participants ages 8 to 21 from nearby German and American schools, each of whom received a ribbon for their efforts and a gift from Saint Nicholas.

Ground troops look for help from above

Air Force and Navy jets in Iraq ready to fly to the rescue 24/7

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

Every day in Iraq, soldiers or Marines on the ground find themselves under fire.

Convoys are attacked along a lonely highway. Patrols catch the deadly eye of snipers. Something. Somewhere. Daily.

When it happens, the ground pounders get help from above.

"That's our primary mission," said Lt. Col. Steve Langford, an F-16 pilot stationed at Balad. "That's the only reason we're here. It happens 24/7. It can happen anytime."

If not Air Force F-16s, it might be U.S. Navy F-14s or F/A-18s coming to the rescue. Air Force AC-130 gunships are also in the flying arsenal.

But the pilots who put munitions on target are only part of the process.



Capt. Stuart Williamson of the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron at Balad Air Base, Iraq, explains some of the equipment used to track aircraft in the country. The squadron can speedily help ground troops get needed air support.

The Air Force has 2,500 people at Balad, living along with the Army and sharing many of the same risks, which is unusual for the flying service. Through it all, the standard Air Force mission of providing cover for troops on the ground gets accomplished.

The effort starts with the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, out of Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, where it is known as the 66th Air Control Squadron.

The squadron's job "is to provide air power to troops on the ground in an expeditionary manner," said Maj. T.J. Courtney, director of operations.

Inside four modules a bit larger than walk-in closets is equipment linked to several radar stations around the country. Screens tell controllers where the aircraft — as many as 70 at a time — are flying. Everything from fighters and tankers to cargo aircraft and commercial airliners fill the skies over Iraq.

The controllers track them all and provide the information to the Air Force's Air Support Operations Center and the Marine's Direct Air Support Center. The centers' locations cannot be revealed for security reasons.

"They can pick the right asset for the right circumstance," said Capt. Stuart Williamson, senior director and air surveillance officer.

For the controllers, the mission is one of constant vigilance. At any moment, something could happen and troops could need air support.

"It's a constant race," Courtney said. The controllers also track tankers flying overhead, directing thirsty fighters to the nearest one, Courtney said, "so the [air] support can stay there as long as the people on the ground need it."

Furthermore, controllers have to watch civilian traffic because Baghdad's airport has been open for several months to civilian aircraft.

Sometimes a Jordanian airliner, for example, might be flying through an area where air power is needed.

"Like that," Courtney said, snapping his fingers. "We have to take that airspace away from them."

That requires coordination with air traffic controllers in the country, a job now being done by other Air Force members.

But even in those dark, cool modules, lit by glowing screens, the squadron members feel a part of the battle on the ground.

"It's a great job," Williamson said. "You get to be right in the middle of it, helping the troops on the ground as it happens."

Tech. Sgt. John Chestnut is one of 23 members of the Ohio Air National Guard's 123rd Air Control Squadron who volunteered when their unit was given the mission.

"To be honest, when you see troops in combat, you say a quick little prayer," he said. Helping them, he said, "is the best part of the mission."

This may be a common mission for the Air Force, but it is performed from an uncommon location — the center of a country engaged in war.

Ordinarily, the airmen and aircraft would be a comfortable distance from the fight, across a national border or two, using their extended reach to assist the cause.

In this war, that's not possible. So the Air Force makes its home in Balad where mortars and rockets have been as common as clipped beef for breakfast.

An airman was killed by a mortar blast in April. Another was severely wounded in September.

More recently, Tech. Sgt. David Hodgen of the 332nd ACS was wounded when a mortar shell landed 15 to 20 feet from where he was riding a four-wheel all-terrain vehicle.

"No sooner do I start it up and give it gas, then — Kaboom!" he said a few days after his weeklong hospital stay ended. "I saw the debris, the flash. I felt the heat. I felt the pieces hitting me."

Doctors counted nine wounds from shrapnel or rocks.

"It was like a miracle I'm alive," he said. The risk is part of the mission and his duty, he said.

"We're in the military. We all know it's a possibility," said Hodgen, a computer technician.

"This is a unique experience for, I'd say, 99 percent of the people out here," said Capt. Lindsay Droz, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Maintenance Squadron. Back home at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, it is known as the 41st Aircraft Maintenance Unit. About 150 members of the unit are at Balad Air Base.

Senior Master Sgt. Geoff Weimer said, "Proximity is important. We're here for a reason."

The job is the same for the maintainers wherever they are: keep the F-16 flying



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron change an engine in an F-16 Flying Falcon at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The squadron keeps the aircraft flying to help troops on the ground.

Falcons airworthy. Weimer said the motivation in Iraq might be greater because the missions are real, "not just Utah training ranges."

Droz said, "Occasionally, we've had to pull guys off the flight line after their shift had ended. Once they start working on an aircraft, they don't want to stop."

One thing that does make the maintainers stop is the alarm that warns of mortar or rocket attacks. Staff Sgt. Jerome Knights said work ceases until the all-clear is sounded.

"It definitely adds to the degree of difficulty," he said.

The fliers, too, who are trained to go into harm's way, are adjusting to life in a war zone.

"We really haven't done this since the Vietnam War," said Langford, the operations officer for the 41st Fighter Squadron from Hill.

But, he said, when the jets are needed, they are needed now, not later.

The missions are mostly close air support, putting ordnance on targets within a few hundred meters — or closer — of friendly troops.

Sometimes, however, the presence of an F-16 screaming low over the area is enough to bring the threat to an end.

There is a risk, Langford said. The country is teeming with anti-aircraft artillery and surface-to-air missiles that are not kind to fighter jets. No aircraft have been hit by fire during the close air support missions, but it is one more thing to think about while doing a hard, dangerous job.

The satisfaction, however, trumps the risk.

"There's no greater reward than helping out our Army buddies on the ground," he said. "There's nothing better than hearing their voices on the radio after an attack. They're ecstatic."

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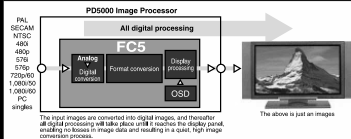
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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday at least 1,263 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 989 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,125 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 880 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ On U.S. soldier died Wednesday in western Baghdad in a vehicle accident.

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Thursday while on patrol in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Cpl. Zachary A. Kolda, 23, Corpus Christi, Texas, killed Wednesday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to the Marine Reserve's 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Houston.

■ Army Spc. David M. Fisher, 21, Green Island, N.Y., died Wednesday in Baghdad when his vehicle rolled over; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry Regiment, Newburgh, N.Y.

■ Army Spc. Erik W. Hayes, 24, Cascade, Md., died Monday in Miqdadiyah when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilecek, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Daryl A. Davis, 20, Orlando, Fla., died Monday in Iraq in a traffic accident; assigned to the National Guard's 144th Transportation Company, Marianna, Fla.

■ Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Pena, 36, Falls Church, Va., died Wednesday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from injuries received Nov. 25 in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Sgt. Pablo A. Calderon, 26, New York, and Army Spc. Jose Guereca, Jr., 24, Mission City, Texas, died Tuesday in Fallujah when an explosive detonated near their vehicle; assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Insurgents kill 30 in series of Baghdad strikes

BY SLOBODAN LEXIK

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In some of the worst violence in recent weeks in Baghdad, insurgents on Friday launched attacks against Iraqi security forces in the north and west of the capital, killing at least 30 people.

Coupled with running street battles in the northern city of Mosul that killed 11 rebels, the surge in violence appeared to indicate that militants still can stage attacks where and when they choose, despite more military campaigns — such as last month's occupation of the rebel-held city of Fallujah — aimed at quelling the insurgency.

A statement posted on an Islamic Web site in the name of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for a daring raid on a police station in Baghdad and for attacks elsewhere in Iraq.

U.S. commanders and Iraq's interior authorities hope to boost security in the mainly Sunni areas of central and northern Iraq ahead of next month's national elections, following calls by prominent Sunni politicians who urged them to postpone the ballot in view of the escalating violence.

The visiting commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization expressed surprise Friday that the insurgency in Iraq had proved so resilient, in contrast to the situation in Afghanistan where he said the security situation had improved significantly.

"I am very pleased with what is going on in Afghanistan ... but at the beginning I would have projected the opposite with Iraq coming along faster," Gen. James Jones said.

The apparently coordinated attacks in Baghdad began just before 6 a.m. local time, when 11 carloads of gunmen drove up to the police station in the city's western Amil district and attacked it with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Police Capt. Mohammed al-Jumaili said insurgents broke into the building killing 16 policemen, looting weapons, torching several cars and setting free about 35 detainees before melting away into the suburbs.

The claim from al-Zarqawi's group said 30 people were killed in the Amil attack and only two escaped.

"The destructive effect that such operations have on the morale of the enemy ... is clear," said the claim which could not be independently authenticated.

Later in the morning, in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Azamiyah, a car bomb exploded at a Shiite mosque called Hameed al-Najar killing 14 people and wounding 19, hospital sources said.

Azamiyah was a major center of Sunni support for Saddam Hussein, and the targeting of the mosque may have been a bid by Sunnis to stoke sectarian strife in the area.



U.S. troops inspect a site after a mortar landed in central Baghdad on Thursday. At least five mortar rounds exploded, including two in the Green Zone, the enclave that houses Iraq's interim administration and several foreign embassies.

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Germany thwarts terror plot

BY TONY CZUCZKA

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A flurry of hectic phone calls between Islamic radicals led German authorities to arrest three Iraqis suspected of planning to attack Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi while he was visiting Germany on Friday, the country's chief prosecutor said.

The three men belong to Ansar al-Islam, which has mounted attacks on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq since last year's U.S.-led invasion of the country, federal prosecutor Kay Neuhof said.

U.S. authorities have linked the group to al-Qaida.

Investigators had been watching the three, and concluded through phone taps and the suspicious movements by one of the men before Allawi's visit that there was "evidence of plans of an attack" on the Iraqi leader, he said.

Nehm refused to elaborate on

what kind of an attack might have been planned. Investigators were still examining evidence seized in raids of nine residences and other buildings in Berlin, Stuttgart and Augsburg, he said.

The suspects' phone calls grew more hectic after initial intelligence led officials to cancel a Thursday night meeting between Allawi and Iraqi exiles in Berlin, leading police to make the arrests early Friday, Neuhof said.

"From the reactions in the various phone calls to the change in the visit's schedule, one must conclude that they indicate that something was planned against the Iraqi prime minister," he said.

"The conversations differed markedly from the usual support activity" for Ansar al-Islam, he said. "Naturally, that made us suspicious."

Ansar al-Islam, which was formed in the Kurdish parts of Iraq, is believed to include Iraqi al-Qaida members who fled the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2002.

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Wounded veterans honored at Pentagon

Right: Spc. Kenny Lukes of Detachment 1, 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard, is overcome with emotion when he sees the hallways of the Pentagon lined with well-wishers cheering and applauding on Friday. Lukes participated in a "VIP" tour for 35 wounded veterans being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

Left: Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Fincannon, in the black T-shirt and hat, is applauded as he enters the Pentagon.

PHOTOS BY CARMEN L. BURGESS/Courtesy of U.S. Army



Marines plan to resume reporting battle deaths

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a month after it stopped publicly reporting individual Marine deaths in Iraq, the Corps' main headquarters there intends to resume the announcements, a spokeswoman said Thursday.

Col. Jenny Holbert, spokeswoman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said it was decided that during the Fallujah offensive the Marines would stay silent until the Defense Department's public affairs office in Washington released identities of Marines killed.

The names are not released in Washington until 24 hours after the victim's relatives are notified, a procedure that usually takes a few days.

Previously, the Marines would announce the fact of a death on the day it happened, without details. That practice ended sometime before the Fallujah offensive was launched Nov. 8.

"We decided not to issue press releases on a casualty because we did not want to aid the enemy in determining the success of their actions," Holbert wrote in an e-mail response to questions about the practice.

Marines suffered most of the U.S. casualties during the fighting in Fallujah. The Los Angeles Times on Thursday quoted Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top Marine commander in Iraq, as saying 71 U.S. troops died in the battle to retake the city, although it did not

say how many of those were Marines.

"Now, since operations have slowed down, we are taking few casualties and the enemy has been severely disabled, we will go back to publishing releases as casualties occur," Holbert wrote.

The Marines had three deaths in Iraq on Monday, but they were not officially reported. The official who revealed the three deaths did so on condition of anonymity because the policy has not

changed yet.

Bryan Whitman, a Defense Department spokesman, said the blackout on information about Marine casualties was a practice the Marines chose on their own, not a policy encouraged or required by the Pentagon.

The Marines felt it was in their best interest to "not provide measures of effectiveness to your adversary" by reporting the number of troops killed on a given day, Whitman said.

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IN THE STATES

Tommy Thompson resigns secretary post

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned Friday, The Associated Press learned, broadening an exodus that has emptied more than half of President Bush's Cabinet be-

Secretary of Health and Human Services to leave; Bush announces Kerik will lead homeland security

fore he takes the oath of office for a second term.

Thompson submitted his resignation to Bush, and planned to announce his departure at a Friday

afternoon news conference, said an official close to the former Wisconsin governor who asked not to be identified.

Mark McClellan, the govern-

ment's Medicare chief and brother of White House press secretary Scott McClellan, is Thompson's likely successor, officials said.

Thompson's resignation brings to eight the number of members of Bush's 15-member Cabinet who have left.

News of Thompson's departure came not long after Bush introduced former police commissioner Bernard Kerik as Tom Ridge's successor to be secretary of homeland security. When Thompson's exit becomes official, eight of the 15 members of Bush's Cabinet will have departed.

Kerik is the steady former military man who helped New York get back on its feet after the Sept. 11 terror attack.

"Bernie Kerik is one of the most accomplished and effective leaders of law enforcement in America," Bush said.



Thompson

Kerik said what he witnessed in the days after the attacks would be etched in his mind if he were confirmed to lead the department.

"I know what is at stake," Kerik said.

"Both the memory of those courageous souls and the horrors I saw inflicted upon our proud nation will serve as permanent reminders of the awesome responsibility you place in my charge," he said.

Bush also lost his ambassador to the United Nations, John Danforth, who is retiring.

Friday's ceremony has become a ritual as Bush rounds out his Cabinet for his second term. He stood in the Roosevelt Room with Kerik, as the nominee's wife and some of their children looked on.

Joe Allbaugh, the former FEMA director who was mentioned as a candidate for the job, said Kerik will "be drinking water from a fire hose for quite a while, but I know he's up to the challenge."

Former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Kerik's boss in city government and later at a private consulting firm, told the Associated Press the former undercover detective will surprise many within the sprawling bureaucracy of homeland security.

"When you see him, he's a big strong guy and a black belt," said Giuliani. "What you get to know when you work with him is how smart he is... how effective and sophisticated a manager he is."

Representative Christopher Cox, a Republican from California, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said, "There is no doubt that Bernie is a strong, no-nonsense manager who is intimately familiar with the homeland security mission."

Senator Susan Collins, a Republican from Maine, chairwoman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said her panel would conduct confirmation hearings as swiftly as possible, calling Kerik "a strong candidate."

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Bush pushes for deal on intelligence bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said lawmakers Friday he is working as hard as possible to strike a deal on legislation to implement the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations on how to make the country safer from terrorist attack.

Bush told House and Senate members at the White House that "he's working on it as hard as he can," said Sen. Mike Enzi,



Bush

R-Wyo., who briefed reporters after the session. "We've talked to other people who are working on it, progress is being made, and we hope that it can be finished up

[next] week."

The president's task may have been made easier on Thursday when the nation's top military officer said lawmakers had adequately addressed a provision in the bill that he had objected to publicly.

Two influential House lawmakers — Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., and Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. — were still opposing legislation that would create a national intelligence director and a national counterterrorism center to face terrorist threats.

Negotiators are working down to the wire in hopes of getting an agreement so the House can vote

Monday. If the House goes ahead, the Senate could act Tuesday and send the legislation to the White House for Bush's signature.

The president on Thursday called House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and told them he wants an intelligence bill completed. Bush was expected to send a letter Friday

to Congress laying out his wishes. As of mid-day, White House officials said the letter had not been delivered.

Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., the lead Senate negotiators, said they were not prepared to reopen negotiations, and said they expect the president's letter would endorse their compromise.

Meanwhile, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said his one objection to the compromise bill was resolved.

He asked last month that the bill keep money for combat support agencies flowing through the Pentagon instead of going through the proposed national intelligence director.

The legislation has not received noticeable support from the Pentagon, which now controls much of the money that would go to the national intelligence director. Crucial to winning Hunter's support is ensuring that the Defense Department would retain direct control over the agencies that operate the nation's spy satellites and analyze the information they pick up.



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U.S.: Iran seeks ICBMs

WASHINGTON — Interception of several technology shipments to Iran has bolstered U.S. suspicions that Iran is secretly developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that could threaten Europe and possibly the United States.

An intelligence report this week to Congress said North Korea, China and parts of the former Soviet Union provided Iran through the end of last year with ballistic-missile equipment, technology and expertise.

The report said Iran was "also pursuing longer-range ballistic missiles."

Moussaoui trial delayed

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Terrorist defendant Zacarias Moussaoui will not go on trial anytime soon because of pretrial disputes over his access to al-Qaida witnesses and his eligibility for the death penalty, a trial judge said Friday.

Prosecutors had asked that the trial begin May 31, but U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema denied the request. Moussaoui, the only U.S. defendant charged in the conspiracy that led to the Sept. 11 attacks, is being held at Alexandria's detention center in the Washington suburbs.

From The Associated Press

Female puts Intrinsa patch on ice

Advisers concerned about side effects in treatment for female sexual dysfunction

BY DIETTRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a move that could chill excitement about experimental drugs to treat female sexual dysfunction, federal advisers refused to endorse a new testosterone patch for women.

Procter & Gamble sought to market the Intrinsa patch to women with impaired libido due to surgical removal of their ovaries. The company told a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel that the drug had not raised significant safety concerns in clinical trials.

However, the advisory committee was unanimous Thursday: More research was needed.

The FDA is not bound by the committee's recommendation, though the agency usually follows such guidance. An FDA decision on Intrinsa is expected in a few weeks.

Panel member Dr. Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic Foundation cardiologist, said he worried about exposing millions of American women to heart attack and stroke risks to gain a marginal increase in sexual satisfaction.

Clinical trials showed that women who applied the patch to their abdomen twice weekly had one more "satisfying sexual event" per four weeks than did women given a placebo, according to the data presented to the advisory panel.

Nissen said Procter & Gamble needs to study at least 5,000 women for several years to see if the testosterone patch unacceptably raises cardiovascular risk. Heart disease is already the No. 1 killer of American women.

Nissen acknowledged the drug's poten-

This is an undated photo provided by Procter and Gamble Co. of a woman wearing an Intrinsa testosterone patch. Federal health advisers said on Thursday that the patch should not be approved until more studies are completed.

tial. "The number of men who take Viagra is enormous," he said. "Why would women be any different? I think there's a huge demand for this agent."

Still, agency officials noted a lack of controlled safety data for women who had used Intrinsa longer than six months.

Procter & Gamble said in a statement it would work closely with the agency "to agree on a practicable approach to provide additional safety data."

The results of long-term studies by the Women's Health Initiative, a program established by the National Institutes of Health, loomed large. That project found that postmenopausal women taking the hormones estrogen and progestin had higher risks of heart attack, stroke and breast cancer.

Lisa Soule, a medical officer in FDA's division of reproductive and urological drugs, said short-term clinical trials for Intrinsa are inadequate.

Soule dismissed Procter & Gamble's suggested post-marketing study that would compare rates of cancer and cardiovascular disease in 5,500 women expected to use Intrinsa in the first year against matching women from a database of 10 million patients.

The Women's Health Initiative, by contrast, had to enroll nearly 17,000 postmenopausal women to begin to detect the safety problems with hormonal therapy, Soule said.

Because hormone replacement therapy definitely increases the risk of development of clots in blood vessels, federal advisers

er Dr. Charles Lockwood wanted more data on blood clotting differences with Intrinsa.

"I think if there is one single element of safety that deserves the most scrutiny, it is the potential role of this patch in promoting blood clotting, said Lockwood, an expert in maternal fetal medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine."

Up to 3 million women whose ovaries had been removed would have been eligible to use Intrinsa, according to the company. However, it was widely expected that Intrinsa would have been used by other women who wanted to increase their sex drive with a drug hyped as a female version of Viagra.

Joan Meyer, senior director of new drug development for Procter & Gamble, told the panel the company will soon have more safety data adding information for nearly 200 women who have used the patch for one year.

The company also will provide safety data on 100 more women who have used the patch for 18 months. Eighty women have been using the product for three years.

Unlike Viagra, which enhances men's physical ability to have sex, Intrinsa boosts women's desire for it. Removal of ovaries can cause women's testosterone levels to drop by 50 percent. Although men make more testosterone, women need some to have normal sex lives, experts say.

Fifteen of every 100 women who use Intrinsa experienced a beneficial effect due to testosterone, Dan Shenas, director of the FDA's division of reproductive and urologic drugs, told the panel.

By a 14-3 vote, federal advisers said that benefit, compared with a placebo, was "clinically meaningful."

DNC tops in fund raising

BY SHARON THEIMER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republicans kept the White House and control of Congress this year, but the Democratic National Committee can take solace in an unexpected victory: It out-raised its Republican rival by millions of dollars.

Figures the DNC filed with the Federal Election Commission on Thursday showed the Democratic committee took in about \$17 million more than the Republican National Committee from January 2003 to late November.

DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe said he considered the fund raising — combined with a lack of debt — all the more remarkable because the party finished the 2000 presidential race with \$18 million in bills to pay.

"We now have money in the bank, we have no debt, we have millions and millions of small donors, grass-roots. And we're very proud of what we did," McAuliffe said in a telephone interview.

"We had every player on the field in this election and we got to the 1-yard line."

The DNC raised \$402 million from January 2003 through Nov. 22, the period covered in its new campaign finance report. The Republican National Committee said it took in \$385

million and wasn't questioning the Democratic committee's financial edge.

"I think that you had an energized and engaged electorate this election cycle on both sides of the aisle, and that's reflected in the fund-raising totals that you're seeing," RNC spokesman Brian Jones said.

Still, added Jones, "the bottom line at the end of the day is we won. We did what we needed to do." Besides keeping the White House, the Republican Party strengthened its House and Senate majorities in the Nov. 2 election.

The Democratic total is noteworthy in part because the DNC had been operating at a multi-million-dollar disadvantage. After a financial surge during President Bill Clinton's years in the White House, it found itself with no sitting president or congressional majority leaders to woo donors.

Strategists in both parties had predicted that a campaign finance law imposing new contributions would hurt the Democrats Party harder than the Republicans.

The Democrats historically were more reliant on the unlimited checks from unions and others that the new law banned, while the Republican Party was much better at collecting lots of small donations.

Condemned woman who won reprieve maintains innocence

BY MICHAEL GRACZYK

The Associated Press

GATESVILLE, Texas — The last time Frances Newton saw her husband and two children alive was April 7, 1987, five days before her 22nd birthday.

She says she went out with a cousin to run a few errands, then came back to her Houston-area apartment to find her loved ones — 23-year-old Adrian, Alton, 7, and 2-year-old Farrah — shot to death.

Two weeks later, Newton was charged with murdering her family, convicted and condemned for a crime she insists she didn't commit.

Newton spent the next 16 years on Texas' death row. On Wednesday,

she was just two hours away from becoming the first black woman executed in the state when Gov. Rick Perry granted a reprieve.

"I was hopeful someone would hear us," Newton said from a cell only a few feet from the death chamber.

Perry agreed with a rare recommendation from the state parole board that Newton should be spared 120 days so experts could retest evidence — a 25-caliber pistol described by prosecutors as the murder weapon, gunpowder residue they contend was on her clothes — using technology that wasn't available when she was convicted.

The governor, who supports

the death penalty, said he saw no evidence Newton was innocent but thought allowing the new tests was the responsible thing to do.

"Everything's going to be fine," a teary-eyed Iva Nelms, Newton's mother, said outside the prison after hearing Perry's decision. "God is taking care of this situation."

Perry's rationale for his decision was understandable to Newton's lawyers.

"I think there's been real increase in skepticism people have about reliability of convictions in many kinds of criminal cases, and that includes death penalty cases," said David Dow, one of Newton's attorneys. "And in that respect, I think Frances Newton benefits."

Schlosser indicted for capital murder

McKINNEY, Texas — A 35-year-old Plano woman who admitted to killing her baby by severing the girl's arms has been indicted on a capital murder charge.

A Collin County grand jury on Thursday issued the indictment against Dena Schlosser, who remains in the county jail.

Schlosser admitted to a 911 operator on Nov. 22 that she severed the arms of 10-month-old Margaret, who died shortly afterward in a hospital.

Schlosser, who was treated for postpartum depression during a Child Protective Services neglect investigation early this year, was found in her apartment, covered in blood, still holding a knife and listening to a church hymn.

A judge granted CPS temporary custody of the Schlossers' other girls — ages 6 and 9 — after CPS determined their father failed to protect his children from their mother. CPS will ask a judge Friday to extend temporary custody indefinitely.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Italy train collision

TARANTO, Italy — A freight train smashed into the back of a passenger train in southeastern Italy, injuring 55 people, police said Friday.

At least part of the passenger train derailed in the crash at about 10 p.m. on Thursday at Palagianello, about 13 miles north of Taranto in the Puglia region, the Carabinieri paramilitary police said.

Six of the 55 injured have been hospitalized, including a 17-year-old boy reported in serious condition, police said.

Further details were not immediately available.

Bosnian robbery

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Two robbers dressed as NATO soldiers stole almost \$1.3 million from a truck carrying money for an Austrian bank, police said Thursday.

The robbery Wednesday came less than a day before NATO's peacekeeping in Bosnia formally ended. A European Union force took over from NATO on Thursday.

The two robbers — who have not been identified by police — set up a fake checkpoint in the northwestern village of Ljubacevo and stopped a truck carrying money for Raiffeisen, an Austrian bank, said Rade Mutic, a police spokesman. The money was being transported to the Bosnian treasury, and police are investigating the theft, Mutic said.

Land mines summit

NAIROBI, Kenya — Delegates to the first five-year review of an international treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines adopted a five-year plan Friday for clearing mines, destroying stockpiles and improving care for victims.

African leaders said Thursday that mine-producing countries had no justification for staying out of the treaty and, until they came on board, the goal of a mine-free world would remain unattainable.

Delegates formally adopted the five-year plan that sets out how countries can reach the goal of clearing land mines by suggesting ways of funding stockpile destruction and how to care for victims, most of whom have long-term needs.

Japan missile research

TOKYO — Japan plans to research and develop a long-range missile in an apparent reversal of a post-World War II policy that permits the military to maintain only weapons for defense, the mainstay only, media reported Friday.

A new midterm defense plan for the year beginning April 1, 2005, includes research for a surface-to-surface missile with a range of several hundred kilometers, the national Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing anonymous Defense Agency sources.

Japan's postwar pacifist constitution renounces war and the use of military force in settling international disputes.

The government's top spokesman denied a major shift in policy.

From The Associated Press

Ukraine Court calls election invalid

Supreme Court rules that another run-off to be held by December 26

BY NATASHA LISOVA

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The Supreme Court declared the results of Ukraine's disputed presidential run-off election invalid on Friday and ruled that the run-off should be repeated by Dec. 26, bringing cheers and fireworks from tens of thousands of opposition supporters massed in Kiev's main square.

The ruling, made after five days of hearings by the court's 18 justices, was a major victory for opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, who had rejected the government's demands that an entirely new election be held.

The opposition had pinned its hopes on the court's ruling in its bid to overturn the results of the Nov. 21 run-off vote in which Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was declared the winner. The opposition said the vote was rigged to cheat Yushchenko of victory.

Fireworks cracked in Independence Square, and the opposition supporters who have massed there for nearly two weeks waved orange flags and chanted "Yushchenko! Yushchenko!" once the ruling was announced.

"This is a great victory of all people who have been standing at the square, a great victory for Ukrainian democracy," said Mykola Katerinichuk, the Yushchenko lawyer who wrote the appeal.

The court decision was a blow to outgoing President Leonid Kuchma — faced with a spiraling political crisis that undermined his hopes to ensure he is succeeded by a supporter. Kuchma had been pressing for an entirely new election, apparently in hopes of replacing Yanukovich with a stronger candidate.

Both sides have promised to abide by the court's ruling. There was no immediate reaction from Yanukovich or his supporters.



A supporter of Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko dances as protesters gather in front of the parliament building in Kiev early Friday. The Supreme Court ruled the election results invalid and the run-off should be held by Dec. 26.

Representatives from Yanukovich and the Central Election Commission left the courthouse before the judges announced their decision.

Presiding Judge Anatoly Yarema said a new run-off vote should be held by Dec. 26.

The original runoff triggered a massive political crisis, with tens of thousands of Yushchenko supporters maintaining a round-the-clock vigil in the capital for the 12th day Friday, as well as a blockade of official buildings that has paralyzed the government.

Philippines' bad weather leaves many needing aid

BY OLIVER TEVES

The Associated Press

REAL, Philippines — Helicopters delivered food to famished survivors and picked up casualties as flash floods began to recede, revealing the magnitude of a disaster triggered by back-to-back storms that left more than 650 people dead and nearly 400 missing in the northern Philippines.

Soldiers who reached an isolated Pacific Ocean village reported finding about 100 dead. In the worst-hit town of Real, in nearby Quezon province, TV images showed bodies buried beneath mud and debris with only the soles of their feet jutting out. Survivors described the stench of rotting bodies.

Some 170,000 have fled their homes for higher ground. Health authorities urged local officials to bury the dead quickly to avoid disease.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo appealed to the nation to "come together...[and] reach out to those who need help."

"We need one great love to deliver the relief supplies, find the missing, rescue the isolated, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless," Arroyo said in a televised statement.

The extent of the devastation was wrought by a tropical storm that blew through northeastern provinces late Monday, killing at



Two government soldiers pass along an infant into the other end of the line at a landslide site Friday, as the typhoon-ravaged town of Real, east of Manila, remains isolated. More than 600 people had been killed by Friday, with nearly 400 still missing, military officials said.

least 527 people, military Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Aban said Friday.

Hardest hit was Quezon province, where 484 bodies have been recovered and 352 people were still missing, he said.

Typhoon Nanmadol then struck the same region Thursday.

While Quezon province bore the brunt of the storms, about 100 people were found dead in Dumanigan, about 60 miles northeast of Manila, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino told ABS-CBN TV. It was unclear where they died in Monday's storm or the typhoon.

The government is helping the populace to recover the survivors and bury the dead, said Tolentino, the regional military com-

mander. He said landslides were blocking the road to the village.

The typhoon claimed at least 30 lives in Aurora province, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

In Real, Mayor Arsenio Ramalosa said there was little typhoon damage, but that the Monday storm left scores of dead.

Nanmadol made landfall late Thursday with sustained winds of 115 mph and gusts of up to 138 mph. It hit the northern half of the main island of Luzon at 21 mph before veering north toward Taiwan early Friday.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the typhoon would bring heavy rains over the weekend and warned ships in the Taiwan Strait to be careful.

EU pushes Turkey to recognize Cyprus

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — European Parliament President Josep Borrell appealed to Turkey on Friday to recognize the government of Cyprus officially as the European Union prepares to decide whether to open membership negotiations with Ankara.

EU leaders are expected to set a date to start membership talks with Turkey during their Dec. 16-17 summit, but Turkey faces increasing pressure to recognize Cyprus as a state, because the Mediterranean island nation — which joined the EU in May — will be part of any negotiations on Turkish membership.

"In order to negotiate and hold talks with somebody one has to recognize that person... and therefore negotiating with the EU implies negotiating with Cyprus and recognizing Cyprus," Borrell told a joint news conference with Turkish Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc.

Earlier Friday, visiting Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht also stressed that the Cyprus problem has to be solved.

"The question of Cyprus is not a precondition to open talks for us, but it is evident that this problem has to be solved," De Gucht said.

Turkey said recognizing Cyprus was not one of the criteria for EU membership.

Victims still fighting for justice in Bhopal

20 years after world's worst industrial disaster, people still weep while others move on

By NIRMALA GEORGE

The Associated Press

BHOPAL, India — Twenty years after a cloud of deadly gas savaged the central Indian city of Bhopal, about 1,500 demonstrators and survivors marched through the streets on Friday, demanding justice for those still suffering the effects of the world's worst industrial disaster.

The crowd — spanning all ages of Indian society — shouted and waved signs as they walked through Bhopal's streets.

"Never again should a Bhopal happen anywhere in the world," Balakrishna Nandev, a rights activist, told the crowd that gathered under the graffiti-covered walls of the abandoned Union Carbide factory. "However long it takes, our struggles to get justice will go on."

On Dec. 3, 1984, about 40 tons of poisonous gas leaked from the pesticide plant, killing at least 10,000 people and affecting more than 555,000 others, although the exact number of victims has never been clear. Many died over the years due to gas-related illnesses, like lung cancer, kidney failure and liver disease.



Survivors of the Union Carbide tragedy hold photographs of relatives who died in the gas leak during a candlelight vigil on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy in India on Thursday.

Despite Friday's flurry of attention, few people here believed the victims would be remembered very long once the television crews, journalists and organizers left.

Organizers had predicted a turnout of several thousand people, but in the end only about 1,500 came, said Hari Narayan,

a local police officer.

Earlier in the day, at least three protest rallies organized by different groups of Bhopal residents and aid groups working with disaster victims marched through the city before arriving at the factory gates.

"Don't forget the victims of the genocide

in Bhopal!" "Death to Dow!" and "We will fight, we will win!" the protesters shouted. Their banners carried similar slogans, accusing Union Carbide and Dow Chemical Co. of inadequate compensation and medical help for the victims.

Another group of protesters staged a mock funeral procession for Warren Anderson, then-CEO of Union Carbide. A straw-filled effigy of Anderson was later set aflame amid shouted slogans.

While millions of dollars in compensation has been set aside, much of the money has been tied up by bureaucratic and legal issues and many people have received little or nothing.

"For the last 20 years, I've been visiting the hospital and government offices, begging for compensation to take care of my two children," said Leelaben Aherwar, whose baby girl survived the gas leak but immediately afterward began showing signs of mental and physical retardation.

Her son, born a few years later, suffers from similar problems.

So far, she has received about \$360. Union Carbide paid \$470 million under a settlement with India's government in 1989. But only part of that amount has reached the victims.

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Gas explosion badly burns 6 in community north of Acapulco

The Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico — Five hundred cylinders of LP gas exploded at a distributorship early Thursday in a community north

of Acapulco, killing one person and seriously burning several other workers.

The 45- and 70-pound cylinders had been loaded onto four delivery trucks, which were destroyed in the blast. Acapulco Civil Protection Director Arturo Sábás de la Rosa said.

Gilberto Benitez, a local official, said it appeared the workers were dragging a gas tank when it exploded, causing other tanks to do the same.

The accident happened before dawn at Gas Mundial, or "Worldwide Gas," a distributorship located

in the city of Tierra Colorada, 45 miles north of the Pacific resort city of Acapulco.

Several workers were hospitalized with third-degree burns. At least 800 gallons of gas stored at the site were not affected, de la Rosa said.

It took fire fighters and rescue officials from several surrounding cities about three hours to control the fire resulting from the explosion.

Also Thursday, in eastern Mexico, a fuel tank being used to help repave a highway exploded, killing two workers. Officials were investigating the cause.

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The Associated Press

ATASCADEROS, Mexico — This remote farming town in northwestern Mexico has tried just about everything to rid itself of rats: cats, poison and even cash rewards for killing the thousands of rodents infesting businesses and destroying the corn harvest.

So when retired Massachusetts salesman Stephen Petren called and said he had a foolproof method, local officials took him up on it.

Petren, 71, from Holliston, Mass., decided he could help this town of 3,000 in the rugged Tarahumara mountains after reading an article about farmers battling a plague of rats. He flew to El Paso, Texas, where he met Mexican officials who drove him 16 hours to Atascaderos.

Petren came armed with molas-

ses, empty oil drums, paper and string for a method he learned in 1951 from his biology professor, a World War II soldier.

With some translation help from this reporter, Petren showed the men how the open end of the drum had to be covered tightly with paper and secured with string. A mix of molasses and corn would be placed on top of the drum as bait and a ladder would have to be built so the rats could have easy access.

The magic, Petren said, consists of cutting a cross through the paper, filling a third of the drum with water and removing the last step on the ladder.

"The rats will come to get their dessert, and they will be forced to jump up and fall in the drum and drown," Petren said as the men looked at him with blank expressions.

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Insanity claim

FL TAMPA — Debra Lafave, the middle school teacher accused of having sex with a 14-year-old student, will claim she was insane at the time of the alleged encounters.

Lafave's attorney, John Fitzgibbons, announced in court that he would file notice of an insanity defense "in the near future."

"Debbie has some profound emotional issues that are not her fault," Fitzgibbons said afterward.

A cadre of TV camera crews turned out to capture the 24-year-old Lafave, blond and blue-eyed, as she entered and left the courtroom, flanked by her lawyer and family.

Gone was the smoky eye shadow and red lipstick that have characterized her image on national TV and on the Internet.

Instead, Lafave showed up for court Tuesday with muted makeup, a somber black suit and heels, her hair demurely pinned back. A small golden crucifix hung from her neck.

Lafave has pleaded not guilty to four felony counts of lewd and lascivious battery and one count of lewd and lascivious exhibition, each of which carry a maximum 15-year prison term.

Lights out for Christmas

OH EASTLAKE — Don't blame the Grinch or Ebenezer Scrooge if this northeast Ohio city isn't quite as jolly and bright for Christmas as to come.

City officials say money — or a lack of it — is causing them to put costly holiday decorations up for sale.

In the last 10 years, Eastlake has spent \$130,000 on holiday lights, displays and banners. Nearly 50 percent of the cost was offset by donations.

"In the foreseeable future, we're not going to have the kind of money to put on that kind of display," Mayor Ted Andrzejewski said recently. "I like the Christmas season, but we have to do it within our means."

Andrzejewski said he's willing to sell the decorations for the right price. His community about 20 miles northeast of Cleveland has a \$3.2 million budget deficit.

Available items include snow-bell-thrashing teddy bears that cost the city \$7,025, an animated giraffe and a lighted peacock.

Paper sale

PA PHILADELPHIA — At the start of the holiday shopping season, The Philadelphia Inquirer inadvertently offered an early bird special of its own.

The early edition of Sunday's Inquirer, which is published on Saturday, was mistakenly priced at 50 cents instead of the usual \$1.50.

"Mistakes happen," said Amanda Bennett, The Inquirer's editor. "I wish that wasn't the case, but it was. We'll move on."

Major retailers were notified of the mistake Tuesday morning.

Protesters said retailers who lost money as a result of the misprint would be compensated.

About 50,000 copies of the early edition, also known as the bulldog edition, are sold at newsstands each week. The paper's total Sun-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

day circulation is about 742,000, said Probst.

Gambling crackdown

AL MONTGOMERY — After a five-month review of electronic gambling, Attorney General Troy King announced he will try to shut down the newest gambling site in rural White Hall. He also warned two dog tracks to replace electronic machines he considers illegal.

King, who said he personally opposes gambling, said he could not ban all electronic bingo games and some gambling foes wanted.

Charitable dog

KS OLATHE — The Salvation Army's 20,000 shiny red kettles and trademark bell-ringers are easy to spot, but one helper stands out — on four legs.

Providence, a 6-year-old German wire-haired pointer, is in her third season as a Salvation Army volunteer.

She's able to do all the things her colleagues do. Providence rings a bell with her mouth and has also learned to take donations and put them in the kettle.

"This is not a drooly-mouth dog," said her owner, Penny Shaffer.

For a while, however, it looked as though the dog's charity work

would end.

In April, a tumor was discovered on the roof of her mouth. It was removed, but another one appeared 12 days later.

"They gave her zip chances," said Shaffer.

Surgery removed Providence's second tumor, three teeth and part of her upper jaw. Her jaw was reconstructed, and she had to be on a feeding tube for more than a month while she healed.

She went through 18 radiation treatments, and there's been no recurrence of cancer.

And on Thursday, Providence returns to her bell-ringing post.

Bordello back in action

NV VIRGINIA CITY — The state's first legal bordello is set to reopen, but the notorious Mustang Ranch name may be shut out of the action.

The Storey County Commission has granted a brothel license to Wild Horse Resort & Spa owner Lance Gilman to operate a second brothel next to the Wild Horse about four miles east of the former Mustang property.

The government seized the Mustang in 1999 after its owners were convicted of racketeering. Gilman bought it on eBay for \$145,000 and moved the Mustang buildings to the Wild Horse site.

The commission will decide at its next meeting whether to let Gilman keep the Mustang Ranch name, which he says was part of his purchase.

Oscar Williams, the owner of Ambient Entertainment of Reno, claims to have the rights to the trademark for clothing and other merchandise and David Burgess, the owner of Old Bridge Ranch, also objects to the use of the name. His brothel is located next to the former Mustang Ranch site.

Gilman said he has spent about \$1.5 million on site preparation and moving the old brothel to his land.

While the original Mustang has 50 rooms, Wild Horse madam Susan Austin said the new one would open with about 20.

Insurance rebates

NJ TRENTON — More than 360,000 New Jerseyans will receive rebates from the state's second-largest auto insurer, the Department of Banking and Insurance announced. New Jersey Manufacturers is issuing a \$59 million special dividend to state policyholders. The average rebate for people who have held the company's policies since 2001 or before is \$173, NIM said.

Policyholders who enrolled after 2001 will get an average rebate of \$94.

Recycling increases

WI MADISON — Residential recycling is on the rise after several years of decline, state data show. Residents recycled an average 267 pounds of waste last year, 6 pounds more than the previous year. State recycling chief Cynthia Moore said the market for recycled material is getting stronger. Overall, Wisconsin residents recycled 735,610 tons of material last year, an increase of about 21,000 tons from 2002.



Early snowblowing

Neighbors Walt Goodman, left, and Gerald Thilmany team up with snow shovel and snowblower to clear out a neighbor's snow covered driveway in Duluth, Minn.



In memory

Sgt. Layne Mari, left, of Eldridge, Iowa, watches as Weber Stone President Mike Dautmeyer guides one of two identical stone memorials into a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Company F, 106th Aviation of the Iowa National Guard at the Weber Stone Company quarry in Stone City, Iowa. The memorials are destined for the unit's facilities in Davenport and Peoria, Ill., in remembrance of the three crewmembers killed and two wounded near Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 2, 2003.



Blown away

High winds caused the top half of the Cowtown cowboy to topple over, leaving just the legs standing, in Pilesgrove Township, N.J.



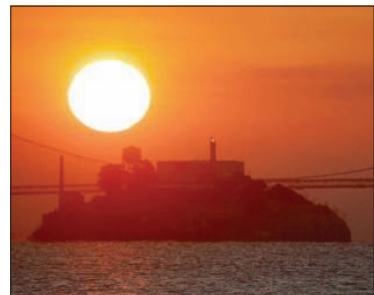
Trimming the tree

Rob Bingham, who works for Hollywood Lights, puts up decorative lights at Gene Coulton Park in Renton, Wash., while getting ready for the Clam Lights 2004, which runs through the holiday season.



Brave firefighter
time of the blaze.

Diboll volunteer firefighter Joe Parish chops through the burning attic of a house fire in Diboll, Texas. The house was unoccupied at the time.



Looks warm, but isn't

The sun rises Thursday over Alcatraz Island and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge as seen from Sausalito, Calif. Recent low temperatures have been breaking records, damaging the state's strawberry crop and raised concerns about the health of the homeless.



You're what you eat

Marcia Rondonwuu pretends to place a bunch of bananas on her head during a healthy diet class at Wegmans Supermarket in Woodbridge, N.J.



Setting up

Construction work for President Bush's inauguration ceremony is under way on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Weather vacancy

MN TOWER — You betcha it gets cold up here, but how will we know how cold this year? This small northeastern Minnesota town that recorded the state's record low in 1996 — a pretty nippy 60 degrees below zero — is without an official weather observer.

The woman who previously held the post left in mid-October; she'd reported Tower's daily temperature and precipitation since 1972.

In the meantime, highs and lows are being recorded at a building in town that stands at a higher elevation than the official weather station. Colder air typically drains into the valley.

Tower, about 35 miles south of the Canadian border, and nearby Embarrass usually vie for Minnesota's daily low, forecasters say.

Both towns are generally apart by a degree or two.

Mike Stewart, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service in Duluth, said the agency is searching for a replacement to fill the spot in the valley.

Embarrass still has an official observer, Stewart said. The low there was 8 below zero Monday.

St. Helens pollution

WA VANCOUVER — Since it began erupting in October, Mount St. Helens has been Washington's worst air polluter. The volcano spews 50 to 250 tons of sulfur dioxide into the air each day, the U.S. Geological Survey said. That compares to about 120 tons a day from all the state's industries combined. Sulfur dioxide is the gas that causes acid rain and contributes to haze.

Boar killings

PA PITTSBURGH — News that the Pig Farm, a private hunting ground, is best known for its immense pigs probably doesn't come as a great surprise.

What is surprising is that someone would go to the trouble of sneaking to the perimeter of the grounds, shooting and killing a dozen or so wild boars, then leaving the carcasses behind.

"I don't think it would be an accident," said Mario Schiavo, a Pennsylvania State Police trooper.

Whoever killed the animals, Schiavo said, would have probably shot through, or above, the electrified fence that surrounds the hunting ground, which is 80 acres, or the size of about 60 football fields. As for motive, Schiavo said it could have been a prank, or someone who's angry with the park's owner, or someone who really, intensely dislikes boars.

"Who knows?" Schiavo said. "People don't have anything better to do than to cause grief for other people, I guess."

Pension predicament

WV CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Supreme Court says the state can't sell \$3.9 billion in bonds to shore up its pension funds without voter approval. The justices say the bond sale would violate the state constitution, which requires a voter-approved amendment before the state takes on new debt. Gov. Bob Wise argued that the bonds would refine existing debt and not constitute new debt.

Business boom

NV LAS VEGAS — New Census data shows Nevada led the nation in growth of so-called "nonemployer businesses" in 2002.

The survey found just over 128,000 of these businesses, which have one or more owners but no employees. The state reported a 7.9 percent rise from 2001. Nationally, the number of nonemployer businesses grew 3.9 percent to 17.6 million in 2002.

Flu shots for elderly

MA BOSTON — State residents 65 and older now qualify for flu shots under eased restrictions announced by the Department of Public Health. Earlier this fall, the state responded to the vaccine shortage by barring adults under 75 from receiving the shot. Officials said more vaccine has become available lately.

Pheasants safe for now

SD PIERRE — A judge struck down a new state law that let road hunters shoot at pheasants after they leave the roadway and fly over adjacent private land. Two ranch couples argued that the 2003 law was unconstitutional because it made private property available to the public without compensation. The state has said the law doesn't take private property for public use.

Dragging death

TX HOUSTON — A man who was dragged along a freeway by his girlfriend's car in rush-hour traffic, then thrown into the air, has died at a hospital from his injuries.

The victim's arm may have been severed — or at least badly mangled — in the ordeal, said police. The 43-year-old man's girlfriend told investigators she blacked out and doesn't remember the event.

Dewey Dale Whitehead of Buna died at Ben Taub Hospital around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday night.

Whitehead and his girlfriend had driven to Houston from the East Texas town for a doctor's appointment on Tuesday. The woman suddenly stopped the car in the right lane of traffic of the East Freeway shortly after 3 p.m. Witnesses said Whitehead, who was in the front passenger's seat, got out and walked around to the driver's side, opened the door and stood talking to her.

"The next thing the witnesses know, she floors it, and she's apparently moving at a pretty good clip and he's hanging on the side of the vehicle," Police Department Homicide Sgt. Mark Newcomb told the Houston Chronicle in Thursday's editions.

The car was moving an estimated 50 mph or more as Whitehead was dragged along the freeway shoulder, passing other vehicles that were stuck in rush-hour traffic, witnesses said.

The 24-year-old woman side-swiped another vehicle as her car reached a narrowed portion of the freeway. That propelled Whitehead into the air over his girlfriend's car and he landed in a ditch.

Whitehead's girlfriend sustained minor injuries.

Newcomb said the woman was taking prescription medication, but it was unknown if that played any role in the events.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTV Television Schedule

Updated program listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTV's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-EMERALD)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Static Shock "Hard as Nails"	(13) Movie *** "Who Am I?" (1996) Antonio Jackson. A special agent with amnesia finds his former boss.	Jiminy Neutron: Boy Genius	Access Hollywood	Nightline	College Basketball Memphis at Purdue. (Taped)	Clean House	Access Hollywood
9:30 Kim Possible "Blush" (E)		Drake & Josh	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		BBO With Bobby Flay	Headline News
10:00 Teen Titans		That's So Raven	ESPN News	Harbort With Chris Matthews		50-3 Day	ESPN News
10:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles		Focus on the Force	George Lopez	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Fashion Police	According to Jim "Pamir" Hall & Half
11:00 Dragonball GT	Movie *** "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" (1991) Arnold Schwarzenegger. Cynoborg boy for a youth who holds the key to the future.	American Adventure	Access Hollywood	CSS: Miami "Slackerz"	Dateline NBC	It's Good to Be	According to Jim "Pamir" Hall & Half
11:30 Justice League						101 Most Unforgettable SNL Moments	CSS: Miami "Slackerz"
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)							
12:30 Cyberspace "Criminals" (E)							
13:00 Extreme "Plank Maze" (E)							
13:30 Scotty's Safari "The Gift" (E)							
14:00 Animal Kingdom	(32) Movie *** "Picture Perfect" (1997) Jennifer Aniston. A single girl pretends to be engaged to further her career.	WWE Raw	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	CNN Saturday Morning	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at San Antonio Spurs. From the NBC Center in San Antonio.	Intimate Portrait "Kelly Preston"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"
14:30						Antiques Roadshow "Charlottesville, North Carolina"	Headline News
14:30						Sat Night "Voyager" Faces	Saturday Night Live
15:00							
15:30 Most Extreme Births Extreme births in the animal kingdom.	(29) Movie *** "Have Rocket, Will Travel" (1959) The Three Stooges. Jennie Cowan.	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.	NFL Live	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and trends.	
16:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys "The King of Theives"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Home"	The Entertainers	College Gameday	Fear Factor	The Entertainers	
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

00:00 Futurama	(11:30) Movie *** "Above the Rim" (1994) Duane Martin.	ESPN News	Headline News	Headline News	10:30 College Football USC at UCLA. (Live)	Mad TV	Headline News
00:30 Futurama "Mother's Day"		ESPN News	Army Newswatch	McLaughlin Group (N)		Trading Spaces	Army Newswatch
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FACES

There's no denying ...



still rocks

Bon Jovi performs "It's My Life"/"Have a Nice Day" during rehearsals Nov. 12 for the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Love them or hate them, there's no denying Bon Jovi's accomplishments.

The New Jersey rockers roared on the scene two decades ago with power-chord-driven guitars and working-class sensibilities that elevated the group, once considered the quintessential '80s pop-metal band, to multiplatinum status.

But as many of their music counterparts fell by the wayside, Bon Jovi managed to retain its status and audience by sticking to straightforward rock music. Along the way, they racked up one multiplatinum album after another, captured a remarkable number of hit singles and managed to stay together when so many other bands of the era fell apart.

This year, the band — headed up by 32-year-old Jon Bon Jovi — marks two milestones: Their 20-year anniversary and the sale of 100 million albums worldwide.

To celebrate, on Nov. 16 the band released "100,000,000 Bon Jovi Fans Can't Be Wrong," a four-CD box set of 50 songs, including 38 never-before-heard songs the band wrote during its career. It also includes a handful of rarities, such as songs from obscure movie soundtracks, and a DVD featuring band interviews.

Why open up the music vaults now?

Jon Bon Jovi: I've never been very good at celebrating the moments as the 20 years have gone by. I was guilty, especially in my younger years, of running through life with blinders on. Many of the magic moments were lost on me because I was always focused on the next day, the next album, the next move. As I've gotten older and started to enjoy it a lot more for what it is, and I knew this milestone of both the 20 years and 100 million marks were quickly coming upon us, I thought 'Why not? Why not take the time to accept the pat on the back and congratulate your band mates and the people who have supported you for 20 years and go into those vaults people have always heard about and were never privy to.



Bon Jovi are, from left, Richie Sambora, Tico Torres, Jon Bon Jovi and David Bryan.

But 50 songs?

You get value for your money with this band, that's for sure. When I thought of this, and I thought of it quite a while ago, I wanted to make sure there was a reason for it. You know, like the 20th anniversary.

Why is there so much unreleased material?

As the record industry changed from the late '80s until now, especially in Asia and Europe, you would have to give people so many B-sides in order to promote singles — to have hit singles and therefore sell your records and therefore sell tickets.

We were doing two and three B-sides for every single we put out.

And because we were diligent every time we would make a record, we would record a lot of songs to get to the final 12. We were never one of those kind of bands that would record 12 songs for the record. We would write 40 and do detailed demos, which is what you hear in the box set.

So is there a tour in the works for this?

No. No. No. We have a new record coming next year that's already done. This is a mile marker, end of story.

Is there a song or two in the box set that you consider a gem?

The ballad one that says "These Arms Are Open All Night." I just think is so cinematic. Any great storyteller from Tom Waits to Billy Joel could perform the hell out of it. There was lyrical content in certain songs that I wish I had been more willing to let go of, and have come out and told what they meant. I was just a little too bruised at the time, and wouldn't put them out because I always wanted to show the sunny side, the optimistic side, the uplifting side.

Go back in time 20 years ago. Is this everything you thought it would be?

I couldn't have lied this well 20 years ago. No one would have believed me, even me. My idea of fame was a tour bus, northeast region of the country, three months, theaters of 3,000 people... I never had aspirations of being in KISS or Led Zeppelin. It's funny because growing up in the '70s that was the biggest, that was the coolest, that was it. That wasn't where I was reaching toward. It wasn't for me. I wanted to be Bob Dylan.

How much bigger does the ride get?

I don't think that it's even on my radar. I'm well over that period. That I know I can tell you I'm not chasing anybody's idea of what's big anymore.

How do you keep it going at this stage of the game?

I enjoy it. I enjoy the writing process first, the recording process second and the touring process last. I think it's been that way with me for a lot of years. But creating the song, unlike the movement from Seattle that took all my peers and put them by the wayside, I wanted to be a rock 'n' roll star. I wanted to have people hear my music. If you were 6 or 60 or if you were from America or Africa, I wanted you to have heard of my songs.

I've never changed that. I love when somebody says "Boy, I like that song" or "I was influenced by that song" or "It marks a memory for me" because I had those kind of memories too when I was kid.

Tenor going on tour

Luciano Pavarotti, long a giant in the opera world, has signed a contract for a 40-date worldwide farewell tour.

Pavarotti, whose tenor voice has filled opera halls for more than four decades, will perform in countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

Pavarotti, who recently turned 69, has sold more than 100 million albums in his career and has done much to popularize classical music and opera.

Bergen joins 'Legal' cast

Candice Bergen is joining her first prime-time TV series since "Murphy Brown," this time as a cast member of ABC's "Boston Legal."

Bergen will join "Legal" stars James Spader and William Shatner, playing Shirley Schmidt, a founding partner of the show's focal law firm.

In the early '90s, the actress won five Emmys and two Golden Globes for her performance on "Murphy Brown," a sitcom about the television news business.

Bergen is also to appear as a judge in the new installment of the "Law & Order" franchise: "Trial by Jury."



An urban Martha Stewart

Kimora Lee Simmons has a full plate. It's probably a solid gold, diamond-encrusted plate, but it is definitely full.

I think I just sort of keep going," the flashy TV personality and Baby Phat creative director told The Associated Press. "I take a bunch of things on my plate, but I have wonderful people behind me. And I only get into things I know about."

The former model, wife of hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and mother of two said she's transformed or, more accurately, branded herself into a sort of urban Martha Stewart. But does that mean "Kimora Lee Simmons" is on the way?

"I'm rolling out a home line," Simmons revealed. "I would make paint and bedding. People ask me all the time about my home... Where did you get those pillows? I'm more than willing to open myself like that."

Women love Cole's 'Song'

Although it's been played many times, many ways, Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song" rates as the most popular Christmas song in a new survey.

Following Cole is Burl Ives' "A Holly Jolly Christmas," Celine Dion's "O Holy Night" and the Ventures' "Rocky Mountain Christmas."

Edison Media Research, who surveys radio listeners, recently conducted a study of the favorite Christmas tunes of women ages 30-49 from across the country.

Charting at the most hated Christmas song is "O Holy Night" by "South Park" character Eric Cartman.

Stories and photos from wire services

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

TOM BRAWN QUICKLY ADJUSTS TO RETIRED LIFE...



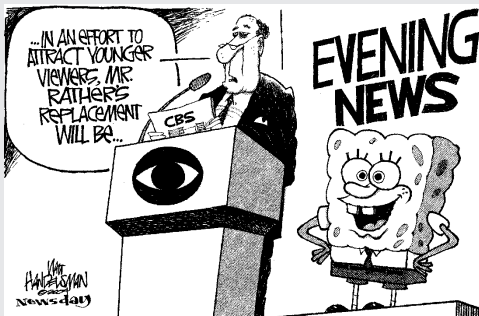
GLENN MCCOY/Universal Press Syndicate



JACK O'BRIEN/Tribune Media Services



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



WALT HANDELSMAN/Tribune Media Services



STEVE GREENBERG/Scripta Howard

Horoscope

The lovely trip down memory lane is sponsored by Mercury retrograde, your one-stop cosmic shop of little horrors. The inner chatter of "Did I really just do that?" and "How could I have said that to him?" will cease once you come to terms with the idea that everybody, even you, is doing the best possible with the knowledge available at the time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 4). Dazzle the world with your genius this year. Draw inspiration from the arts, and make brilliant business moves in January. The spring features a big purchase. Be daring — believe you can have more. Singles are adventurous and enjoy a level of playfulness in their dating life. But, come June, it's about settling in and making plans for the future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone tries to educate and inform you, but you're getting another feeling from the interaction — like you're being indoctrinated! You're probably right. Continue to be an individual advocate for free thought.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a great appetite for knowledge, and in the quest for it, you'll loosen your grip on beliefs that have held you back. The same goes for negative people. You'll consciously choose not to return a call.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Because you're aware of your own energy force, you're able to increase it and decrease it as the situation dictates. Listen to all sides of an argument. Doing the "right" thing means something different to everyone involved.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Postpone firm commitments for a few days, since you're in no position to make decisions that will affect your financial realm. (Whether they're about love, family or business, they will influence your financial realm.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Handle what's important first and all subsequent tasks are easier than you

thought they'd be. You can combine business and a hobby for some sudden money. Technology is your friend, so use it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Why think in black-and-white terms when it's so much more fun to see the world in Technicolor? Time shows you the legitimacy of the other person's position, particularly in romantic squabbles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Confidence is more attractive than any physical characteristic, so stop worrying about looks. Besides, you've turned the corner on managing your health or weight. Good fortune comes with the change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Success comes from temporarily shifting your focus. Measure yourself against a long-term goal, and refuse to get wrapped up in the hour-by-hour ebbs and flows of business. Before you know it, you're ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Hold back on a project if you have any confusion about what to do next or how to do it. The bottom line involves much more than money. Ask a powerful person what he or she would do in your situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may come up against fierce opposition, but have courage, and stand strong. The sand starts running out of the hourglass on a deal — it's critical for you to move quickly with people who know what they're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your tranquil tone attracts more joyful, carefree and prosperous situations. Take a risk you would not have taken yesterday. You could help someone save face, which will always be remembered.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Answers are found through observation, not research. Tell the one who cries "Wolf!" that you're going to have to stop responding — and then, do all you can to keep this from being an empty threat.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis

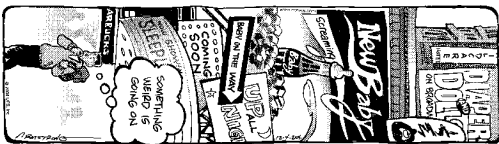


or weight. Good fortune comes with the change.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



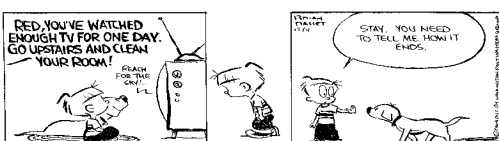
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



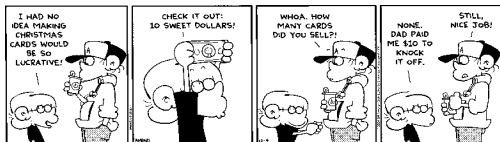
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



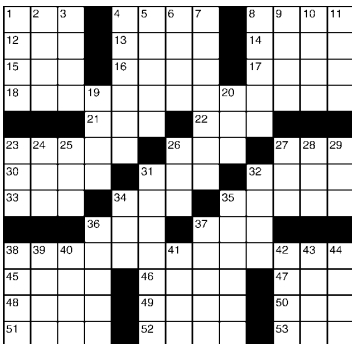
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Filch
- 4 Margarine servings
- 8 At a snail's pace
- 12 Citric beverage
- 13 Moises of baseball
- 14 Urin' "— 18"
- 15 Bro's counterpart
- 16 Biz letterhead abbr.
- 17 Mideast VIP
- 18 Stun
- 21 Find a tenant
- 22 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 23 Swell
- 26 Fort widths
- 27 Resume
- 30 Reddish steel
- 31 Place-kicker's pride
- 32 Assistance
- 33 Request
- 34 Saturn auto model
- 35 Ex-governor
- 36 Blunder
- 37 Witness
- 38 Subject of an "Annie" song
- 45 In eager anticipation
- 46 "An apple — ..."
- 47 Sitcom star Romano
- 48 Hayseed
- 49 Toy-shop offering
- 50 "All the Things You —"
- 51 Disarray

Down

- 1 Small barrel
- 2 Valhalla VIP
- 3 Mexican money
- 4 Mail boat
- 5 Soaring
- 6 Pamplona runner
- 7 Highest-ranking
- 8 Refine
- 9 Prom transport
- 10 Hodge-podge
- 11 Become symptom
- 12 distorted
- 19 Family
- 20 Ninny
- 23 Support system?
- 24 Part of UCLA
- 25 Squirrels' hangout
- 26 A long time
- 27 — relief
- 28 Half the ramifications?
- 29 Praise in verse
- 31 Whirlwind
- 32 Command to
- 33 Annoy
- 34 The good doctor
- 35 Squeaks past
- 37 La — Opera House
- 38 Injury
- 39 Malaria
- 40 Plagiarizes
- 41 Bloodhound's clue
- 42 "Axis of evil" member
- 43 Token, maybe
- 44 Kept under surveillance

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-4

CRYPTOQUIP

LZ D XHYGQXLOU XWDMUR
 BHWWMIDWW MHQ'BU
 EHPPD PFLOS FUR IU
 ZDOPDJPLG DP JXLSLOE.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER IF
 PICCOLOS ARE PLAYED DURING HURRICANES.
 AFTER ALL, THEY'RE HIGH WINDS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equal P

Mom's promise gives reassurance

Dear Abby: A promise I made to my child is tearing me apart. My 7-year-old son, "Lyle," has been talking a lot about death. A while back, we were in the car and he brought the subject up again. He said how sad he would be in heaven alone, and asked that should anything ever happen to him, if I would go with him. I promised that I would, and it seemed to make him feel much better. We talked about how we would fly down to Earth and touch our loved ones to give them comfort, even though they would never see us.



Dear Abby

That promise I made is killing me now, because, God forbid if something were to happen to Lyle, I could never go with him. I have four other children who need me. I'm afraid if I take back the promise that gave my son so much comfort, it will upset him. Also, I need to know why, at his tender age, Lyle is talking so much about death. Is this normal? Sometimes

it scares me.
— **Torn Mother in Vermont**
Dear Torn Mother: Do not "take back" the promise. Your son was asking for reassurance that you would never leave him, and you gave it to him. Because you are concerned about this preoccupation with death, gently try to draw him out when he brings it up again. If you are not satisfied with his responses, enlist the aid of a child psychologist.

Dear Abby: I dated "Carter" for five months. During that time, he bought me all kinds of presents, from flowers to tires for my car. I never asked Carter for anything. In fact, I told him twice that there were "too many presents."

He responded that I was insulting him, and told me I should just accept them graciously and say thank you.

I tried to reciprocate by doing

things for him. I would cook him dinner every time he came over, and give him fresh produce from our garden. I even loaned Carter my car when he was in the shop. Now that we are broken up, he is demanding that I return all his gifts and pay him \$300 for the tires or he will sue me. (I have proof they were gifts, and given with love.) I feel Carter is wrong. Should I give him back the things and pay him?

— **Sorry I Ever Met Him in California**

Dear Sorry: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient to do with as she (or he) wishes. However, in this case, since you now know they were intended as strings to bind you to him, it might be better to return them and be rid of him once and for all.

P.S. He can sue you if he wishes, but whether he could WIN is another matter. I hope for his sake he won't decide to try.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>
Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TULDA

ASTUE

YODMEB

KENALT

www.jumble.com

A: A

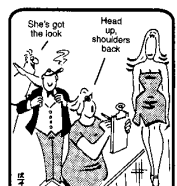
Answers Monday

Yesterday's

Jumbles: AFIRE BARGE RACIAL AFFAIR
Answer: How the dining critic described the food at the carnival — FAIR FAIR FAIR

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers Monday)

Be firm: Tell daughter time to go

Dear Annie: My daughter and her three children came to live in our home over a year ago. She told me it would be for only a short time. Now her boyfriend is living here, and they are paying us only \$200 a month, which does not cover utilities and other extras she costs us.

Both my husband and I are on disability.

I am tired of having five extra people in my house with no privacy, and told my daughter months ago to start looking for her own place. How do I get them out?

— **Desperate, Angry Mother**
Dear Mother: Would your daughter be willing to pay more to cover her costs? Would you be willing to let her stay if she did? If not, give her a specific date when she has to be out of the house, and help her look for available rentals.

You may want to see a lawyer to start eviction proceedings. Otherwise, if she makes no effort to move, change the locks on your doors and toss her stuff on the

Annie's Mailbox



lawn.

Dear Annie: When I married my wife and became a stepfather to her children, she said I had equal say in all things and suggested I spend at least twice as much time listening as I did talking. Here are some things I have found to be true:

1. Don't force things. If and when the children choose to like you, they will. Don't be confrontational about inconsequential things. Carefully pick the fights you really need to fight.

2. Listen. Communication is a two-way street. If they believe you won't listen to them, they aren't going to listen to you. When kids need to talk about something, it needs to be now, not after the news or at bedtime.

3. Communicate with your partner. Particularly when faced with teenagers, a unified front is essential.

4. Never bash the ex-spouse,

and if possible, try to have a civil relationship with him/her. Before birthdays and Christmas, my wife's ex calls me for suggestions. If you have a civil relationship, everybody wins.

5. Don't look at yourself as a parental replacement. I am a parental supplement. These girls grew up with three parents who love them. If you try to drive a wedge or replace the other parent, you will lose.

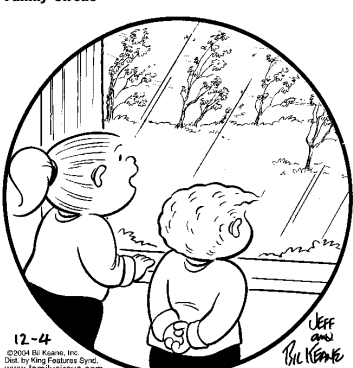
6. Tell them you love them, often.

I'm not claiming to have all the answers, but the girls do love me all the time. I think it's called being a parent.

— **Wisconsin Stepdad**
Dear Stepdad: We like your suggestions — they show a great deal of common sense and a loving attitude. Thanks for sharing with our readers.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045
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12-4

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"Wow! Look how the wind makes the trees dance!"

GRAFFITI

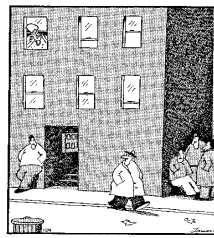
TEMER IS A VALUABLE ASSET TRY NOT TO LOSE IT

Dennis the Menace



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The Far Side



"Sigh! I made a mistake! ... Deposit the \$50 cash into savings, and put the \$500 in cash into checking!"

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1009-stop, 1010-stop, 1011-stop, 1012-stop, 1013-stop, 1014-stop, 1015-stop, 1016-stop, 1017-stop, 1018-stop, 1019-stop, 1020-stop, 1021-stop, 1022-stop, 1023-stop, 1024-stop, 1025-stop, 1026-stop, 1027-stop, 1028-stop, 1029-stop, 1030-stop, 1031-stop, 1032-stop, 1033-stop, 1034-stop, 1035-stop, 1036-stop, 1037-stop, 1038-stop, 1039-stop, 1040-stop, 1041-stop, 1042-stop, 1043-stop, 1044-stop, 1045-stop, 1046-stop, 1047-stop, 1048-stop, 1049-stop, 1050-stop, 1051-stop, 1052-stop, 1053-stop, 1054-stop, 1055-stop, 1056-stop, 1057-stop, 1058-stop, 1059-stop, 1060-stop, 1061-stop, 1062-stop, 1063-stop, 1064-stop, 1065-stop, 1066-stop, 1067-stop, 1068-stop, 1069-stop, 1070-stop, 1071-stop, 1072-stop, 1073-stop, 1074-stop, 1075-stop, 1076-stop, 1077-stop, 1078-stop, 1079-stop, 1080-stop, 1081-stop, 1082-stop, 1083-stop, 1084-stop, 1085-stop, 1086-stop, 1087-stop, 1088-stop, 1089-stop, 1090-stop, 1091-stop, 1092-stop, 1093-stop, 1094-stop, 1095-stop, 1096-stop, 1097-stop, 1098-stop, 1099-stop, 1100-stop, 1101-stop, 1102-stop, 1103-stop, 1104-stop, 1105-stop, 1106-stop, 1107-stop, 1108-stop, 1109-stop, 1110-stop, 1111-stop, 1112-stop, 1113-stop, 1114-stop, 1115-stop, 1116-stop, 1117-stop, 1118-stop, 1119-stop, 1120-stop, 1121-stop, 1122-stop, 1123-stop, 1124-stop, 1125-stop, 1126-stop, 1127-stop, 1128-stop, 1129-stop, 1130-stop, 1131-stop, 1132-stop, 1133-stop, 1134-stop, 1135-stop, 1136-stop, 1137-stop, 1138-stop, 1139-stop, 1140-stop, 1141-stop, 1142-stop, 1143-stop, 1144-stop, 1145-stop, 1146-stop, 1147-stop, 1148-stop, 1149-stop, 1150-stop, 1151-stop, 1152-stop, 1153-stop, 1154-stop, 1155-stop, 1156-stop, 1157-stop, 1158-stop, 1159-stop, 1160-stop, 1161-stop, 1162-stop, 1163-stop, 1164-stop, 1165-stop, 1166-stop, 1167-stop, 1168-stop, 1169-stop, 1170-stop, 1171-stop, 1172-stop, 1173-stop, 1174-stop, 1175-stop, 1176-stop, 1177-stop, 1178-stop, 1179-stop, 1180-stop, 1181-stop, 1182-stop, 1183-stop, 1184-stop, 1185-stop, 1186-stop, 1187-stop, 1188-stop, 1189-stop, 1190-stop, 1191-stop, 1192-stop, 1193-stop, 1194-stop, 1195-stop, 1196-stop, 1197-stop, 1198-stop, 1199-stop, 1200-stop, 1201-stop, 1202-stop, 1203-stop, 1204-stop, 1205-stop, 1206-stop, 1207-stop, 1208-stop, 1209-stop, 1210-stop, 1211-stop, 1212-stop, 1213-stop, 1214-stop, 1215-stop, 1216-stop, 1217-stop, 1218-stop, 1219-stop, 1220-stop, 1221-stop, 1222-stop, 1223-stop, 1224-stop, 1225-stop, 1226-stop, 1227-stop, 1228-stop, 1229-stop, 1230-stop, 1231-stop, 1232-stop, 1233-stop, 1234-stop, 1235-stop, 1236-stop, 1237-stop, 1238-stop, 1239-stop, 1240-stop, 1241-stop, 1242-stop, 1243-stop, 1244-stop, 1245-stop, 1246-stop, 1247-stop, 1248-stop, 1249-stop, 1250-stop, 1251-stop, 1252-stop, 1253-stop, 1254-stop, 1255-stop, 1256-stop, 1257-stop, 1258-stop, 1259-stop, 1260-stop, 1261-stop, 1262-stop, 1263-stop, 1264-stop, 1265-stop, 1266-stop, 1267-stop, 1268-stop, 1269-stop, 1270-stop, 1271-stop, 1272-stop, 1273-stop, 1274-stop, 1275-stop, 1276-stop, 1277-stop, 1278-stop, 1279-stop, 1280-stop, 1281-stop, 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1373-stop, 1374-stop, 1375-stop, 1376-stop, 1377-stop, 1378-stop, 1379-stop, 1380-stop, 1381-stop, 1382-stop, 1383-stop, 1384-stop, 1385-stop, 1386-stop, 1387-stop, 1388-stop, 1389-stop, 1390-stop, 1391-stop, 1392-stop, 1393-stop, 1394-stop, 1395-stop, 1396-stop, 1397-stop, 1398-stop, 1399-stop, 1400-stop, 1401-stop, 1402-stop, 1403-stop, 1404-stop, 1405-stop, 1406-stop, 1407-stop, 1408-stop, 1409-stop, 1410-stop, 1411-stop, 1412-stop, 1413-stop, 1414-stop, 1415-stop, 1416-stop, 1417-stop, 1418-stop, 1419-stop, 1420-stop, 1421-stop, 1422-stop, 1423-stop, 1424-stop, 1425-stop, 1426-stop, 1427-stop, 1428-stop, 1429-stop, 1430-stop, 1431-stop, 1432-stop, 1433-stop, 1434-stop, 1435-stop, 1436-stop, 1437-stop, 1438-stop, 1439-stop, 1440-stop, 1441-stop, 1442-stop, 1443-stop, 1444-stop, 1445-stop, 1446-stop, 1447-stop, 1448-stop, 1449-stop, 1450-stop, 1451-stop, 1452-stop, 1453-stop, 1454-stop, 1455-stop, 1456-stop, 1457-stop, 1458-stop, 1459-stop, 1460-stop, 1461-stop, 1462-stop, 1463-stop, 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1646-stop, 1647-stop, 1648-stop, 1649-stop, 1650-stop, 1651-stop, 1652-stop, 1653-stop, 1654-stop, 1655-stop, 1656-stop, 1657-stop, 1658-stop, 1659-stop, 1660-stop

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PLACE A PRIVATE PARTY AD IN FOUR SIMPLE STEPS †

1. Write an ad (be sure to include the item, price/or best offer (OBO) and phone number).
2. Select a 4, 7, or 30 day package.
3. Choose a category from the index running most days in Stars & Stripes Classified.
4. Decide which day you would like your ad to begin running, and submit with the appropriate payment on or before the deadline listed below. *

MONDAY	DUE NOON THURSDAY	FRIDAY	DUE 4 PM TUESDAY
TUESDAY	DUE 4 PM THURSDAY	SATURDAY	DUE NOON WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY	DUE 4 PM FRIDAY	SUNDAY	DUE 4 PM WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY	DUE 4 PM MONDAY		

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1. 4 lines for 4 days for \$20.00 (\$5.00 per additional line). \$
2. 4 lines for 7 days for \$30.00 (\$7.50 per additional line). \$
3. 4 lines for 30 days for \$55.00 (\$10.00 per additional line). \$

† Private Party Rates apply only to individuals advertising merchandise or private property for sale, up to two major items such as a boat, motor vehicle or home. Commercial Rates apply to property and/or merchandise for rent and commercial operations. Employment Rates apply for Jobs Offered and Job Fairs. For Commercial or Employment Rate Information Contact Stars & Stripes Classified. * Payment is required in advance in order to publish ads. Acceptable forms of payment include Visa, MasterCard, Check or Money Order. Please do not send cash. If an ad is not removed by the designated deadline, it will begin running the next available day. Please allow one extra day for all federal holidays. § Classified ads include approximately 25 characters (this includes spaces) per line.

Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is four business days prior to first date of publication. It's the responsibility of the advertiser to contact European Stars & Stripes Classified on the first date of publication to correct errors. If the ad has a typographical error, that does not affect the integral value of the ad, i.e., misspelled words; running category (Class-by-code); GPS, bold, italicized incorrectly; it will be corrected, but no charge will be assessed. Incorrect phone numbers, first names, wrong dates, wrong prices, wrong dates, or no model listed in the ad will result in a mislead for one additional day. Stars & Stripes reserves the right to edit and retain any ad and all ads contained herein for publishing. All classified advertisements are non-refundable.

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Business Name: _____ Phone #: _____

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Visa/MC (circle one): _____ Exp. Date: _____

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Announcements 040

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Announcements 040

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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.—College basketball: Memphis at Portland.

AFN-Pacific, 2 a.m.—NBA: Detroit at San Antonio.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—Boxing: Rocky Jacobs (21-0) vs. Guy Espadas Jr. (38-0), featherweight.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Indiana at Seattle.

AFN-Sports, 8 a.m.—NFL: Films Game: New York Giants at New York Jets.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Miami at Connecticut.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference championship game, Virginia Tech at Miami.

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 8:30 p.m.—College football: Army vs. Navy.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m.—College football: Southern Cal at UCLA.

AFN-Sports, midnight—College football: Southeastern Conference championship game, Tennessee vs. Auburn.

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—College football: Big 12 championship game, Colorado vs. Oklahoma.

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Arkansas.

AFN-Pacific, 1 p.m.—College football: Division I-AA quarterfinals, New Hampshire at Montana (D).

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta at Tampa Bay.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta at N.Y. Jets.

AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.—NFL: Cincinnati at Baltimore.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—NFL: Kansas City at Oakland.

AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.—NFL: Denver at San Diego.

All Times Central European Time; det. indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
New England	10	0	.729
N.Y. Jets	8	2	.727
Buffalo	6	4	.632
Miami	5	5	.500

NFC			
	W	L	Pct
Indianapolis	8	3	.727
San Francisco	7	4	.632
Houston	5	6	.455
Tennessee	5	6	.455

AFC			
	W	L	Pct
Pittsburgh	10	0	.909
Baltimore	6	4	.632
Cleveland	4	6	.400
Chicago	3	6	.333

NFC			
	W	L	Pct
San Diego	9	2	.727
San Francisco	7	4	.632
Oakland	4	6	.400
Kansas City	3	6	.333

NATIONAL CONFERENCE			
	W	L	Pct
x-Philadelphia	10	0	.909
N.Y. Giants	5	6	.455
Washington	5	6	.455

AFC			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	9	2	.818
Carolina	4	6	.400
Tampa Bay	4	6	.400

NFC			
	W	L	Pct
Green Bay	4	6	.400
Minnesota	4	6	.400
Chicago	4	6	.400

AFC			
	W	L	Pct
Seattle	6	5	.545
Los Angeles	5	6	.455
Arizona	4	7	.364
San Francisco	3	7	.303

NFC			
	W	L	Pct
Oakland at Atlanta	0	0	.000
Cleveland at Buffalo	0	0	.000
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore	0	0	.000
Indianapolis at Houston	0	0	.000
Chicago at Jacksonville	0	0	.000
Seattle at New England	0	0	.000
San Francisco at Seattle	0	0	.000
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh	0	0	.000
Miami at Denver	0	0	.000
San Diego at Green Bay	0	0	.000
St. Louis at Carolina	0	0	.000
San Francisco at Arizona	0	0	.000
Tampa Bay at San Diego	0	0	.000

Sunday, Dec. 5			
	W	L	Pct
Oakland at Atlanta	0	0	.000
Cleveland at Buffalo	0	0	.000
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore	0	0	.000
Indianapolis at Houston	0	0	.000
Chicago at Jacksonville	0	0	.000
Seattle at New England	0	0	.000
San Francisco at Seattle	0	0	.000
N.Y. Jets at Pittsburgh	0	0	.000
Miami at Denver	0	0	.000
San Diego at Green Bay	0	0	.000
St. Louis at Carolina	0	0	.000
San Francisco at Arizona	0	0	.000
Tampa Bay at San Diego	0	0	.000

Monday, Dec. 13
Kansas City at Tennessee

College football

Thursday's score

MIDWEST
Mid-American championship, Toledo 35, Miami (Ohio) 27

Bowl game

Tuesday, Dec. 14
New Orleans Bowl
Payton \$750,000
(North Texas 7-1 vs. Southern Mississippi 6-6)

Tuesday, Dec. 14
Champs Sports Bowl
Payton \$500,000
AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m. at Orlando, Fla.

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m. at San Francisco, Calif.
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. at Georgia Tech: Atlantic Coast Conference championship game, Virginia Tech at Miami.

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 8:30 p.m. at Memphis: Army vs. Navy.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. at Cincinnati: Penn State vs. Ohio State.

AFN-Atlantic and Pacific, 11:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m. at Wyoming: (6-5) vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5.

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. at UAB (7-4) vs. Wake Forest (6-5).

AFN-Pacific, 1 p.m. at Blue and Gray.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

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AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m. at Las Vegas: Bowl Payton \$750,000.

Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payton \$1,500 million
Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC

Boys Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payton \$14.5 million
Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TBA

At Tempe, Ariz.
Payton \$13.14 million
BCS vs. BCS

Monday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans, La.
Payton \$11.4 million
BCS vs. BCS

Tuesday, Jan. 4
Payton \$11.4 million
At Miami
Payton \$11.4 million
BCS vs. BCS

Saturday, Jan. 15
O'Brien Classic
Payton \$500,000
North vs. South 11 a.m. (ESPN2)

Wednesday, Dec. 22
At San Francisco
Payton \$750,000
East vs. West

Saturday, Jan. 22
Hula Bowl
At Maui, Hawaii
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Dec. 27
Hula Bowl
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Dec. 10
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Dec. 13
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Dec. 17
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Dec. 20
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Dec. 24
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Dec. 27
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Dec. 31
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Jan. 3
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Jan. 7
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Jan. 10
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Jan. 14
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Jan. 17
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Jan. 21
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Jan. 24
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Jan. 28
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Jan. 31
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Feb. 4
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Feb. 7
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Feb. 11
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Feb. 14
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Feb. 18
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Monday, Feb. 21
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Friday, Feb. 25
Payton \$750,000
North vs. South

Georgia Tech (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Georgia, Sunday.

Kentucky (5-0) did not play. Next at Arkansas-Saturday.

Oklahoma State (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Washington, Saturday.

West Virginia (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Indiana, Saturday.

North Carolina (4-0) did not play. Next vs. North Carolina, Saturday.

Carolina (5-1) did not play. Next vs. No. 8 Kentucky, Saturday.

Carolina (5-1) did not play. Next vs. Valparaiso, Saturday.

Carolina State (3-1) did not play. Next vs. George Washington, Saturday.

Carolina (5-1) did not play. Next vs. George Mason, Saturday.

Ottawa (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Duquesne, Saturday.

Carolina (4-1) did not play. Next vs. Eastern Washington, Saturday.

Carolina (4-1) did not play. Next vs. South Alabama 66-52. Next vs. No. 21 Arizona, Sunday.

North Carolina State (5-0) did not play. Next vs. Marshall, Sunday.

Louisville (3-4) did not play. Next vs. Lafayette, Saturday.

Texans (4-1) did not play. Next at Seton Hall, Saturday.

Florida (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Miami, Saturday.

No. 16 Notre Dame (3-0) did not play. Next at Michigan, Saturday.

Alabama (4-2) did not play. Next vs. No. 15 Mississippi State, Sunday.

Alabama (4-2) did not play. Next at Alabama State, Sunday.

Alabama (4-2) did not play. Next vs. Centenary, Friday.

Alabama (4-2) did not play. Next vs. Auburn, Friday.

Alabama (4-2) did not play. Next at Rutgers, Saturday.

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Indiana (5-0), N. Kentucky 71. Jamestown 75, Mar. 7.

Kentucky (5-0) did not play. Next vs. Kentucky, Saturday.

Arkansas (5-0) did not play. Next vs. North Carolina 94, Pittsburgh 51.

Arkansas (5-0) did not play. Next vs. Ohio 64, Butler 58.

Arkansas (5-0) did not play. Next vs. SIU-Edwardsville 67, Missouri 59.

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Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, celebrates a four-set victory over American Andy Roddick in a Davis Cup final match Friday, Spain, the 2000 Davis Cup champion, won both matches to take a 2-0 lead in the final series.

Champions in Spain

Deluge of winning shots buries U.S. in a 2-0 hole

BY STEPHEN WADE
The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish lost opening matches in the Davis Cup final on Friday, leaving the United States in a big hole and Spain in commanding position to win the title a second time.

Rafael Nadal defeated the second-ranked Roddick 6-7 (8-6), 6-2, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 after Carlos Moya opened with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Fish, an inexperienced day-court player.

Spain, which won the title at home in 2000 over Australia, now needs one more victory in the best-of-five series. The Americans have won the Davis Cup a record 31 times, but have not captured the premier team event in men's tennis since 1935.

Only one team in Davis Cup history has come back from 2-0 down and won the final — Australia in 1939 in a victory over the United States.

In Saturday's doubles, American twins Bob and Mike Bryan face Nadal and Tommy Robredo. The Bryans are 4-0 in Davis Cup play and have not lost a set. If they win, Sunday's singles would pit Moya against Roddick and Fish against Nadal.

The 18-year-old Nadal was sensational on the slow, red clay on a chilly day at Olympic Stadium. He combined power in his sweeping left-handed groundstrokes with touch on repeated drop shots, prompting Roddick to applaud with his racket.

"I had cramps at one point but I got through it," Nadal said.

**"I tried everything.
I tried serving
and volleying,
I'd tried coming
in on a lot of
balls, I tried to
stay back, and he
had answers. ...
You have to tip
your hat to him."**

Mardy Fish
U.S. Davis Cup player

Asked if he were ready to play Sunday, he replied: "Right now, I'm not. I'm really beat. But I think I'll be ready."

Attendance was given unofficially at 27,200, which would be a record for a sanctioned tennis match. The old mark was set in 1954 in Sydney, when 25,578 watched the United States defeat Australia in the Davis Cup final.

Despite dropping the first set in 71 minutes, Nadal came right back and swept through the second in 34 minutes, twice breaking Roddick's service.

In the 85-minute third set, Nadal failed to capitalize on any of eight break points and was again forced into a tiebreaker. This time he won it, taking the set point on a backhand crosscourt passing shot.

Nadal sprinted through the final set against the disgruntled Roddick. Nadal dropped to his back after the winning point, and then rushed to the net to shake hands with Roddick.

It was only the second meeting between the two. Three months ago in the second round of the U.S. Open, Roddick won 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

In the first match, Moya fell behind 3-0 in the first set but came back and twice broke Fish's serve to take the set in 40 minutes. Moya broke serve again to open the second set, establishing the tone as he swept through the match in straight sets in 1 hour, 57 minutes.

In the ball from Fish was bouncing higher than I expected, because of his power and topspin," Moya said. "But once I got used to it I was able to handle his game."

The crowd was a blanket of red and yellow, with a brass and drum section heating up the match. Fans were wrapped in overcoats and some sat under umbrellas. The court is under cover, but fringe areas are exposed to open air.

"I started great and I would like to have played like that the entire match," said Fish, who had played only one match on clay before Friday.

"I tried everything. I tried serving and volleying. I tried coming in on a lot of balls. I tried to stay back, and he had answers," he added. "I had some chances and he served a few of those chances away. You have to tip your hat to him."

Only Orioles vote against Expos move to Washington

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball owners gave their conditional approval Friday to moving the Montreal Expos to Washington next year, hinging their decision to an agreement signed in September that did not contain a cap on the cost of a new ballpark.

Owners approved the move during a telephone conference call. The vote was 29-1, with the Baltimore Orioles dissenting, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

Approval was "subject to all conditions set forth in the Baseball Stadium Agreement," signed on Sept. 29 by the Expos and Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams. That agreement called for the District of Columbia government to enact by Dec. 31 funding for a new ballpark for the team, which would be renamed the Nationals.

Sports briefs

"This is another important step," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "We are looking forward to finishing the last steps, including the sale of the ballpark, and the rebirth of the club as the Washington Nationals."

Orioles owner Peter Angelos has opposed the move, saying a team in Washington would cut the revenue of his franchise. Baseball's chief operating officer, Bob DuPuy, has been negotiating a deal with the Orioles that would protect Angelos' franchise, but no agreement has been reached, and Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich said this week the matter could wind up in court.

The move would be the first of a Major League Baseball team since the expansion Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Washington's team would start play April 4 at Philadelphia and play its home opener April 14 against Arizona at RFK Stadium. RFK Stadium would be used by the team for at least three seasons before the opening of the new ballpark, which would be built south

of the Capitol, along the Anacostia River.

The Expos were bought by the other 29 teams before the 2002 season, and the commissioner's office is in the early stages of the sale process.

Head butt ends title bout

TENGGARONG, Indonesia — Indonesia's Yohannes Christian John kept his WBA featherweight title Friday when his bout with Venezuela's Jose "Cheo" Rojas was stopped in the fourth round following a head-to-head collision that left both fighters bleeding from their right temples.

The scheduled 12-round fight, John's second title defense, was scored a technical draw.

Appley leads by one

SUN CITY, South Africa — Stuart Appley of Australia was the only player to break 70 Friday, shooting a 3-under-par 69 that left him with a one-stroke lead over Lee Westwood of England halfway through the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Appley was at 5-under 139 after two rounds. Westwood had a double bogey on the 17th, a water hole, and finished with his second straight 70 for a 140 total.

"Double bogeys are always a disappointment," Westwood said. "I made a couple of slip-ups today and was just unlucky on the 17th."

With the temperature reaching 97 degrees, the Gary Player Country Club course proved difficult, with British Open champion Todd Hamilton and former U.S. Open winner Jim Furyk among those unable to break par.

Westwood and Appley had shared the first-round lead with South Africans Ernie Els and Retief Goosen. Goosen, the U.S. Open champion, shot a 71 and was tied at 141 with Zimbabwe's Nick Price, who had a 70. Els was at 144 after a 74 that was marked by a triple-bogey 7 on the 11th hole. Defending champion Sergio Garcia of Spain shot a 76 and was at 151.

NASCAR likes playoff

NEW YORK — Calling 2004 a year "of remarkable change and success," NASCAR chairman Brian France said he doesn't foresee a whole lot more change for 2005.

France, finishing his first full season as the man in charge of NASCAR after taking the reins from his father, Bill France Jr., was the architect of the new

Chase for the Nextel Cup points system that put its unique stamp on this season.

Shelving the points system in place since 1975 after years of mostly runaway champions and waning late-season interest by fans, NASCAR split its season into two parts in 2004. The first 26 races determined 10 drivers who would race for the title over the last 10 races in a playoff-style championship format.

It replaced a one-particular newspaper headline that said, "NASCAR's broken," but said, "NASCAR fixed it." That kind of said it all," the younger France noted. "The would only be a vendetta, particularly the last few races."

There was some criticism that the new points system did not reward victories enough, with runner-up Jimmie Johnson finishing eight points behind champion Kurt Busch despite winning four of the 10 Chase events and earning series-high eight races during the season.

Busch won three times, including twice during the Chase. "The entire team at NASCAR will review the type of things they think can make it better," France said. "There was anything, it would only be an adjustment, a small adjustment. I pretty much liked the way things turned out."

BALCO founder: Jones used drugs

Conte tells ABC he watched gold medalist inject growth hormone

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Olympic star Marion Jones injected herself in the leg with human growth hormone while BALCO head Victor Conte watched, he told ABC News in an interview for "20/20," to be broadcast Friday.

Jones also was given other performance-enhancing drugs by Conte, one of four men indicted in an alleged steroid-distribution ring.

Jones' attorneys denied she ever used performance-enhancing drugs.

In excerpts released by the network of the interview to be broadcast Friday night, Conte said he started supplying Jones with performance-enhancing drugs in the weeks leading up to the 2000 Olympics, where Jones won five medals.

Conte said he gave her a substance called "the clear," which was later determined to be THG, EPO and insulin. He also showed her how to inject hGH into her leg.

"After I instructed her how to do it and dialed it up, she did the injection with me sitting right there next to her ... right in front of me," he told ABC.

Conte told ESPN the Magazine for an upcoming issue that Jones wasn't nervous about injecting herself.

"There was a lot she needed to know, like how to assemble it, how to get the air bubbles out of the cartridge so she didn't inject air, and how to inject herself ..."

he said. "She was wearing stretch bicycle shorts, and she pulled up the spandex above her right thigh. She dialed up the cartridge injector to deliver 4.5 units of growth hormone. I was sitting about a foot away from her as she injected the growth hormone into her quadricip."

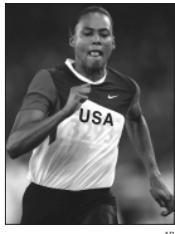
Jones, who is under investigation for steroid use by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, has denied using any performance-enhancing drugs and passed a lie detector test arranged by her attorneys in June.

"Mr. Conte's statements have been wildly contradictory, while Marion Jones has steadfastly maintained her position throughout. She has never, ever used performance-enhancing drugs," said her attorney, Rich Nichols. "Mr. Conte is simply not credible. We challenge him to submit to the same lie detector procedure that Marion Jones passed."

Phone calls and e-mails to Conte's attorney, Robert W. Holley, were immediately returned.

Jones, who failed to win a medal at this year's Olympics, has never failed a drug test, but Conte said to accurate tests he administered for the substances he gave her during the approximately 13 months he worked with her.

"I was there for a tested many, many times from the time-frame that I worked with her ... And she obviously passed all the tests, blood and urine, all the ones at the Olympic Games," he said. "So as I told you earlier ... it's like taking candy from a baby."



Sprinter Marion Jones injected herself in the leg with human growth hormone and was given other performance-enhancing drugs, BALCO founder Victor Conte told ABC News.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said he was aware of Conte's accusations.

"I hope the truth will emerge," he said. "We want the truth. We want to know what happened and the more we know the better."

Conte also told ESPN the Magazine that a new drug, which he dubs "the clear III," is currently in circulation.

Conte was indicted in February by the grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative. Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente, Barry Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson and track coach Remy Kocchennny all have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Conte also said he developed a plan to use drugs to help Tim Montgomery, the father of Jones' baby, break the world record in the 100 meters in 2002. Montgomery's attorney, Howard Jacobs, declined to comment on the charges.

Conte also admitted to giving steroids to Anderson, but did not know whether Anderson gave any of them to Bonds or other baseball players.

Testimony could cost Giambi \$120M contract

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi might have taken his final swing for the New York Yankees last season. His reported testimony that he used steroids might lead the Yankees to terminate his \$120 million contract and allow baseball commissioner Bud Selig to discipline him.

Giambi said he injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to a grand jury transcript reviewed by the San Francisco Chronicle.

His testimony last December, before a federal grand jury investigating illegal steroid distribution, contradicts his public proclamations that he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Penalties for steroid use in baseball began in 2003, but testing that identifies players didn't start until the next season. While discipline is spelled out for positive tests and criminal convictions, admission of steroid use is not addressed, possibly giving Selig an opening to punish Giambi.

Selig repeatedly has called for year-round random testing and harsher penalties, but management and the players' association have failed to reach an agreement. The contract runs through the 2008 season.

"I've been saying for many months: I instituted a very, very tough program in the minor leagues on steroids in 2001. We need to have that program at the major league level," Selig said Thursday in Washington, D.C. "We're going to leave no stone unturned until we have that policy in place by spring training 2005."

Giambi, the 2000 American League MVP with Oakland, signed a seven-year contract with the Yankees before the 2002 season, the sixth-highest deal in base-



Giambi

ball history. Botched by an injured knee, Giambi hit just .250 in 2003. He batted .208 and played in only 80 games last season, missing time because of a strained right ankle, fatigue and a benign tumor, which the New York Daily News reported was in his pituitary gland.

Giambi reportedly testified that one of the drugs he thought he used was Clomid, a female fertility drug that some medical experts say can exacerbate a pituitary tumor.

Giambi's agent, Art Tellem, didn't return telephone calls seeking comment.

New York still owes Giambi \$82 million, but the Yankees might be able to get out of the deal.

"They could argue Giambi's use of steroids violated his contract, allowing them to terminate it. It violated the guarantee language of the deal, allowing them to release him at a fraction of the remaining money or caused him to be injured or unavailable, meaning he was paid at a time when he was at less than full strength."

"We have met with the commissioner's office today and will continue to work with them to obtain all of the facts in this matter," Yankees President Randy Levine said. "We have made no decisions and will keep all of our options open."

Asked in February whether he had ever taken performance-enhancing drugs, Giambi said, "Are you talking about steroids?"

However, he told grand jurors he used steroids during the 2001-2003 seasons, the Chronicle reported Thursday.

Bonds: MVP sought help for arthritis, lack of sleep

BONDS, FROM BACK PAGE

"It was in the ballpark ... in front of everybody. I mean, all the reporters, my teammates. I mean, they all saw it. I didn't hide it."

The transcript shows that before he testified, Bonds was told he would not be prosecuted for any crimes he admitted as long as he told the truth to the grand jury. But if he lied under oath, the prosecutors warned, he could face prosecution for perjury. It is illegal to obtain steroids and human growth hormone without a doctor's prescription.

Faced with the same warning and similar evidence, five other baseball players who were summoned to San Francisco to testify last year confessed to the grand jury that they had used performance-enhancing drugs provided by Anderson.

One week after Bonds testified, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and his brother Jeremy, both former Oakland A's, described in detail how they had injected themselves with performance-enhancing drugs. The Giambis testified they were drawn to Anderson because of his success.

Other players who admitted their use of performance-enhancing drugs were



Bonds

former Giants Armando Rios, Benito Santiago and Bobby Estalella. The players said they had come to know Anderson because he was Bonds' trainer.

A sixth witness, Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield, testified that while he trained with Bonds in the Bay Area before the 2002 baseball season, Bonds had arranged for him to receive "the cream," "the clear" and "red beans," which the prosecutors identified as steroid pills.

Sheffield said he had never been told that the substances were steroids. Bonds also was using "the cream" and "the clear," Sheffield said.

"Nothing was between me and Greg," Sheffield testified. "Barry pretty much controlled everything ... It was basically Barry (saying), 'Trust me. Do what I do.'"

"... I know I've seen Greg give Barry the same thing I was taking. I didn't see him taking those red beans, but I seen him taking this (clear) and this cream here."

Attorneys for Sheffield and Santiago ex-

pressed dismay that the secrecy of the grand jury had been violated.

Santiago's attorney, David Cornwell, also said, "If any performance-enhancing drugs were ingested, they were ingested unknowingly."

Rios' attorney, Chris Cannon, dismissed the report as "ancient history." Estalella could not be reached for comment.

Since the BALCO scandal erupted, Bonds has insisted he never used banned drugs. But in statements he later denied making, both Conte and BALCO Vice President James Valente, also indicted, told investigators that Anderson was supplying steroids to Bonds, court records show.

In addition, The Chronicle has reported that in a secretly recorded conversation, Anderson said Bonds had used an "undetectable" performance-enhancing drug during the 2003 season.

Bonds hit 73 home runs in 2001, breaking one of baseball's most storied records. He hit his 703rd home run this past season and is expected to pass Babe Ruth's mark of 714 next year. Last month, at age 40, Bonds won his fourth consecutive National League Most Valuable Player award and the seventh of his career, more than any other player.

Anderson has been Bonds' trainer throughout his assault on the home run record.

In his grand jury testimony, Bonds described Anderson as a boyhood friend with whom he reconnected in 1998. Anderson was working as a personal trainer on the Peninsula.

Bonds said he had begun using the cream and the clear substance at a time when he was aching with arthritis and was distraught over the terminal illness of his father, former Giants All-Star Bobby Bonds, who died in 2003.

"I have bad arthritis. I've played 18 years, had knees, surgeries and so on," Bonds testified, adding that he wanted a product that would "take the arthritis pain away that I feel in the mornings when it's super cold ..."

"I was battling with the problems with my father and the ... just the lack of sleep, lack of everything."

But Bonds said he got little help from Anderson's products. Eventually, Bonds said he decided to "take the arthritis pain away the grand jury." "If it's a steroid, it's not working."

Bonds insisted he had never paid Anderson for drugs or supplements, but he acknowledged paying him \$15,000 in 2003 for weight training.

Injured Gradowski leads Toledo to MAC title

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — A broken hand and separated shoulder were not enough to stop Bruce Gradowski from lifting Toledo to the Mid-American Conference championship.

Gradowski threw three of his four touchdown passes to Lance Moore, leading the Rockets to a 35-27 win over Miami (Ohio) in the MAC title game Thursday night.

When Gradowski hurt his shoulder on

the first drive, he missed only one play. He injured his throwing hand late in the second quarter, and X-rays taken at halftime showed his hand was broken.

But he returned to toss three scoring passes in the second half.

"There was no way I wasn't coming back," said Gradowski, who was 18-for-24 for 251 yards with four touchdown passes and one interception. "Nothing was going to keep me out of this game."

Moore had five receptions for 118 yards

and caught three touchdown passes for the third time in his career.

The Rockets responded when they found out the extent of Gradowski's injuries.

"Everyone was like, 'Wow,'" Moore said. "It just made everyone want to play even harder because we're healthy and he's out there with a broken hand and a bad shoulder."

The banged-up Gradowski joined some impressive company.

For the fourth year in a row, a quarter-

back threw four touchdown passes in the MAC title game. Ben Roethlisberger did it last year for the RedHawks, and Byron Leftwich did it for Marshall the two previous years.

"If he did that with a broken hand, that's a really gutsy performance," Miami coach Terry Hoepfer said.

Toledo (9-3) will return to Ford Field to face Connecticut on Dec. 27 in the Motor City Bowl. The RedHawks (8-4) will play in the Silicon Valley Classic or the Independence Bowl.

Final test for the top trio

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Going into the final week of the regular season, only one team is set for a specific spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Michigan will play in the Rose Bowl. Everything else will be put in place Saturday in six games involving eight ranked teams.

First up will be Pittsburgh trying to wrap up the Big East's automatic bid to the BCS against South Florida in a game rescheduled because of a hurricane.

About two hours later the former beasts of the Big East, Miami and Virginia Tech, play for the Atlantic Coast Conference crown and its BCS bid.

Then the national championship contenders begin their final push toward the Orange Bowl to play for the BCS title.

Southern California (11-0) plays cross-town rival UCLA. The Trojans are in first place in the BCS standings and have locked up a BCS berth as Pac-10 champion. A victory gives them a trip to Miami and a chance to make it back-to-back national titles. A slip sends them to the Rose Bowl.

College football picks

"There is a lot at stake here. The elements that add up are good for us," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "It would be a great game either side. But the fact that we have to deal with all this pressure is good for us."

Just about when the Trojans and Bruins are heading to halftime, Auburn and Tennessee kick off the Southeastern Conference title game in Atlanta.

The Tigers (11-0) are third in the BCS standings and probably need a loss by USC or Oklahoma to play in the Orange Bowl.

They beat the Volunteers 34-10 in Knoxville in October.

"We played them early in the season, but you can throw that out and they will have a grudge on their shoulder and they will come out with more enthusiasm," Auburn running back Ronnie Brown said.

About an hour and a half after the Tigers-Volunteers start their rematch in Atlanta, California, fourth in the BCS standings, tries

to secure its spot in the BCS at Southern Mississippi.

The odd cross-sectional regular-season finale also was caused by a September hurricane. Texas will be watching closely, hoping the Golden Eagles can spring the upset — or at least make the Bears look bad — and put the Longhorns in the BCS.

Shortly after that, Oklahoma and Colorado get going in the Big 12 title game in Kansas City. The Sooners appear to control their destiny — win and they're off to Miami to play for a national title for the second straight season.

"We won't sit around and watch other games on television Saturday, we will keep focused on the Colorado game," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said.

The Big 12 title game has a history of upsets, including Kansas State knocking off the Sooners to spark last season's BCS controversy.

"There is more of a sense of alertness here, the need to finish well for this week," Stoops said.

Oddly, now an upset is needed to avoid having three unbeaten teams from the major conferences and another BCS controversy.

The picks:

Army (plus 13) vs. Navy: Mids have won two straight by combined 92-18. — **ARMY 30-29.**

No. 1 Southern California (min 22) at UCLA: USC has won five straight against Bruins, past three by average of 27 — **USC 48-21.**

No. 2 Oklahoma (min 21½) vs. Colorado: No Sooner slip up this year. — **OKLAHOMA 40-17.**

No. 3 Auburn (min 13) vs. No. 15 Tennessee: Much like first meeting — **AUBURN 30-13.**

No. 4 California (min 23) at Southern Miss: Roses are red but the Rose Bowl will be mostly blue this year. — **CAL 48-20.**

No. 7 Louisville (min 28) at Tulane: Cards go for fifth straight game with at least 55 points — **LOUISVILLE 59-24.**

No. 10 Virginia Tech (plus 7) at No. 9 Miami: Hokies' Frank Beamer could be national coach of the year — **VIRGINIA TECH 24-21.**

No. 19 Pittsburgh (minus 7) at South Florida: Pitt gives Big East possible embarrassment of sending Syracuse to BCS — **PITTSBURGH 24-14.**

Last week 8-5 (straight); 3-10 (vs. points).

Season: 189-50 (straight); 121-105-5 (vs. points).

College football schedule/statistics

Weekend schedule

Saturday, Dec. 4
EAST
Army vs. Navy at Philadelphia
Virginia Tech at South Carolina
Ark-Pine Bluff at Alabama
Louisville at Tulane
Florida International at Florida Atlantic
SEC championship, Auburn vs. Tennessee
at Atlanta

Pittsburgh at South Florida
California at Southern Miss
Big 12 championship, Oklahoma vs. Colorado at Kansas City, Mo.
Far West
Southern Cal at UCLA
Michigan St. at Hawaii

Div. I-AA playoffs
Quarterfinals
Sam Houston State at Eastern Washington
Delaware at William & Mary
James Madison at Furman
New Hampshire at Morris

Div. I-B playoffs
Semifinals
West Chester (11-1) at Valdosta St. (11-1)
North Dakota (11-2) at Pittsburg St. (11-2)

Quarterfinals
Delaware Valley (12-0) at Rowan (9-3)
Mary Hardin-Baylor (11-1) at Washington
Occidental (12-0)
Carthage (11-1) at Mount Union (11-0)
Occidental (11-1) at Lincoln (10-0)

NCAA playoffs
Semifinals
Georgetown, Ky. (12-0) at St. Francis, Ind.
Azusa Pacific (11-2) at Carroll, Mont. (9-2)

Division I-A team statistics

Total offense

Team	Plays	Yds	TDs
Boise State	682	5628	51.6
Utah	681	5397	50.6
Bowling Green	687	4696	48.9
Texas Tech	683	5303	48.1
Toledo	626	5252	47.3
Oklahoma	584	5137	46.0
Oklahoma	616	5129	46.6
Purdue	637	5011	45.5
Hill, South Florida	611	5022	44.7
Minnesota	756	4909	44.6
Northwestern	618	4875	44.0
Southern California	789	4836	43.6

Rushing offense

Team	Cars	Yds	TDs
Rice	629	5115	21.5
Texas	569	5339	20.4
Navy	577	5290	25.0
Ark-Fort	548	5261	27.4
Minnesota	550	2896	25.1
Ark-Fort	543	2792	25.6
California	426	2537	25.3
Washington	439	2529	25.2
Oklahoma	564	2695	24.7
Michigan	429	2473	24.8
Boise St.	558	2670	24.7
Northwestern	424	2467	24.5
Northern Ill.	556	2645	24.2
San Diego	584	2417	24.0
Fresno St.	468	2508	23.0

Passing offense

Team	Air	Yds	TDs
Texas Tech	591	387	47.6
Bowling Green	429	3692	33.5
Hawaii	450	3540	35.1
Washington	429	3248	34.8
Arizona	547	2648	32.5
Boise	540	2640	31.5
Rutgers	473	3041	30.5
Boise	473	3041	30.5
Louisville	291	2928	29.2
Connecticut	427	2882	28.3
Michigan (Ohio)	387	2971	28.1
Michigan	387	2971	28.1
Florida	326	2921	27.1
Boise St.	324	2928	26.8
Southern California	361	2408	26.8

Total defense

Team	Plays	Yds	TDs
North Carolina St.	701	2435	22.1
LSU	682	2479	24.9
Florida	679	2479	24.9
Southern California	716	2964	29.4
Florida St.	682	2995	27.2

Team	Plays	Yds	TDs
Wisconsin	678	3035	27.9
Iowa	746	3180	28.9
Penn St.	713	3207	29.5
California	652	2927	29.7
Georgia	682	3237	30.2
Georgia Tech	739	3294	29.4
Nebraska	698	3303	30.2
Missouri	705	3315	30.1

Rushing defense

Team	Cars	Yds	TDs
Florida St.	371	1287	9.1
Southern California	329	887	8.6
Penn St.	331	1077	9.0
California	323	880	8.0
Iowa	400	998	9.7
New Mexico	402	1020	9.6
Penn St.	381	984	9.4
Ohio	358	1041	9.6
Purdue	375	1125	10.0
Nebraska	372	1075	10.2
North Carolina St.	429	1126	10.4
Nebraska	388	1104	10.2
LSU	381	1150	10.6

Passing defense

	Att	C	Yds	TDs	Pt
North Carolina St.	272	118	1309	12	91.7
Alabama	229	100	1282	9	94.9
Southern California	387	202	2077	10	97.0
Fresno St.	331	167	1935	8	97.8
LSU	301	140	1599	14	98.5
Virginia Tech	285	153	1658	7	98.7
Oregon St.	391	168	2135	23	99.0
Wisconsin	328	161	1743	11	99.3
Penn St.	310	175	1785	5	99.8
Troy	352	179	2375	9	101.6
UTEP	385	209	2152	12	102.3
Clayton	359	183	2100	10	103.3
Texas Tech	339	171	1930	12	104.0
Iowa	389	211	2188	13	104.2
Missouri	277	148	1642	10	104.3

Div. I-A individual statistics

Rushing

Player	Cars	Yds	TDs
Thomas, Mo. Texas	258	1709	6.7
Williams, Minnesota	295	1828	6.2
Wenson, Texas	292	1801	6.2
Arrington, Cal.	231	1584	6.5
Wolfe, Mo. Illinois	244	1572	6.5
Moats, La. Tech	270	1706	6.3
Peterson, Oklahoma	286	1671	5.8
Morency, Okla. State	250	1454	5.8
Hill, South Florida	241	1454	5.8
Hart, Michigan	261	1372	5.3
Parsons, Kansas St.	248	1454	5.3
Jones, Army	188	1171	5.2
Conner, C-Michigan	282	1369	5.1
Horne, Northwestern	274	1381	5.0
Moore, New Mexico	277	1085	5.0
Maroney, Minnesota	189	1243	5.0
Dorsey, UNLV	208	1168	4.8
Fason, Florida	205	1173	5.7

Passing

Player	Air	Cars	Yds	TDs
Lefors, Louisville	204	152	2152	17.188
Smith, Utah	280	280	280	16.8
Campbell, Auburn	219	219	2157	17.0
Jackson, Bowling Green	248	248	248	16.8
Rodgers, Cal.	246	270	270	16.40
White, Oklahoma	243	277	277	16.2
Gradowski, Toledo	365	256	3224	22.162
LeFors, Louisville	143	227	145	15.75
Orton, Purdue	342	210	288	15.5
LeFors, Louisville	261	156	156	15.2
Ricard, Tulane	213	148	1881	21.182
LeFors, Louisville	261	156	156	15.2
Leak, Florida	300	293	293	14.84
Hughes, IAB	269	269	269	14.84
Pierce, N. Mexico St.	285	291	291	14.84
Wagner, Nevada	269	269	269	14.84
Marshall, W. Virginia	213	213	213	14.75
Berlin, Miami	236	166	1770	18.189

Receiving

Player	Cars	Cars	Yds	TDs
Moore, Texas Tech	11	106	1399	9.9
Wright, Middle Tenn.	12	98	938	8.0
Edwards, Michigan	11	98	938	8.0
Deslaurie, E. Michigan	11	98	938	8.0
Wagner, Nevada	11	98	938	8.0
Subbellef, Purdue	11	98	938	8.0
Jones, Army	11	98	938	8.0
Owens, Hawaii	11	98	938	8.0
Jones, Army	11	98	938	8.0
Hass, Oregon State	11	98	938	8.0
Wright, Middle Tenn.	11	98	938	8.0
Hagan, Arizona State	11	98	938	8.0
Webb, San Diego St.	11	98	938	8.0
Magnus, Bob. Green	11	98	938	8.0

NFL Challenge

The deadline to enter your picks for the NFL Challenge is fast approaching!

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Strong get stronger in wrestling

Div. I champ Ramstein will get tough competition in '04-05

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

High school wrestling in Europe for 2004-2005 is a case of the power programs getting more powerful.

Division I champion Ramstein, for example, returns no fewer than five European placers for the new season, which begins Saturday at four sites. To supplement those wrestlers, Royals coach Dave Izzo adds a pair of Far East placers, 130-pound third-place finisher Chris Maxey and 215-pound champion Cole Maxey, to his newest squad.

However, Izzo, who'll get another season from 140-pound European champion Karl Saucier and European runners-up Noah Sheppard and Jose Figueroa, figures he'll need whatever points the Maxeys can provide to prevail again.

"This should be a great year for competition at the Division I level," Izzo said, citing 2004 runner-up Heidelberg, Wiesbaden and Würzburg as the power programs that will challenge Ramstein.

Izzo thinks Würzburg will be strong again in spite of a Wolfpack regime change. Duane Werner, who staged the annual Wolfpack Holiday tournament, promoted summer wrestling camps in Poland and Germany and breathed constant energy into the Würzburg program, accepted an administrative job in the school system. He was replaced by long-time assistant Steve Kennedy.

Kennedy, a former Army wrestler, said he felt a bit of trepidation over trying to fill Werner's shoes.

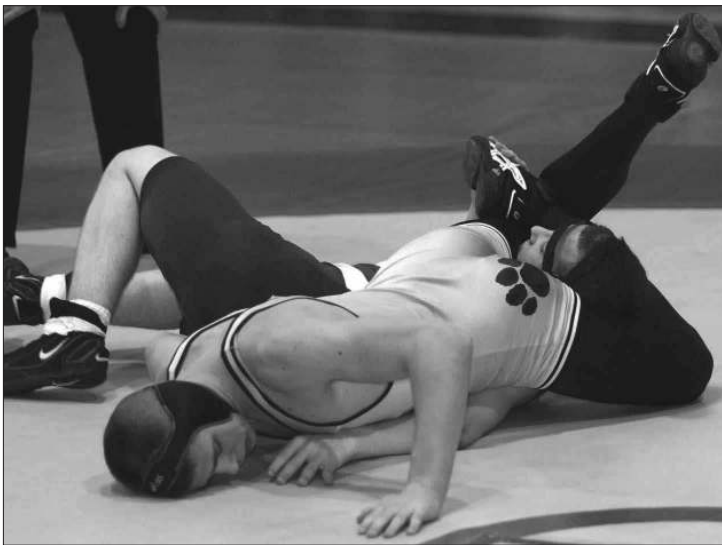
"It's like a guy who's never played basketball being asked to take Larry Bird's place," Kennedy said. "Duane runs a great team, and he's the go-to guy whenever anyone has a question about wrestling."

Kennedy is ably backed by fellow Army wrestling veteran Jeff Pelton, U.S. Army Europe's chief referee, and adds another Panther brother, 140-pound freshman Brian, to defending European 125-pound champ Jesse and his twin brother, Jonathan.

Heidelberg will be led by senior Andrew Zachar, the European champ at 152 last year. A fourth-year performer for the Lions, Zachar is expecting fellow four-year Lion Elliott Bolz, third at 160 last season, to join him at the top.

Steve Jewell takes the wrestling reins at Wiesbaden this season and welcomes back Matt Alexander, third at 152, to his powerful squad.

In Division II, defending champion Bitburg, under coach Jeff Watts, will get plenty of scoring from European runners-up



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Heidelberg's Andrew Zachar, left, pins Ramstein's Logan Rainforth at 3:33 to win first place in the 152-pound division of the DODDS Division I Wrestling Championships in Schweinfurt, Germany, last February. Zachar, also the European champion, will be back to defend his title.

Saturday's wrestling schedule

At Aberdeen: The American School in London, Lakenheath, London Central, Merwath Hill.

At Brussels: AFNORTH, Baumholder, Bitburg, SHAPE, Wiesbaden.

At Ramstein: Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Mannheim, Patch.

At Würzburg: Andechs, Bamberg, Gies-sen, Hanau, Hohenfels, Vilsack.

Devon Gardner at 140 and Daniel Brunal at 112.

The Barons also return European placers in Anthony Messina, David Villanova and Shawn Reynaud for the new season.

Fredo Ontiveros' D-3 champion London Central Bobcats will build around defending European 112 champ Johnathan Scott, Division III 103 champion Jake Russell, European placer Jesse Tate and D-3 runner-up Matt Kessler.

The Bobcats will be challenged again by Gary Feletar's Ansbach Cougars, led by 215-pound European runner-up Mike Ewing, the DODDS-Europe male athlete of the year.

Other D-3 wrestlers of note include Greg Vogt of Aviano, third in Europe at 112 last season, and new teammate J.B. Bender, a Vir-

ginia state finalist last season; Gary King of Vicenza, who placed fifth in Europe after an 18-0 regular-season campaign; and European qualifiers Daniel Herring and Adam Worrell of Bamberg.

All will have definitive chances to find out where they stand in a pair of early-season all-comers meets Dec. 18 at Würzburg and Ramstein.

Middle school and high school wrestlers are invited to the Wolfpack Holiday Classic in Würzburg. Wolfpack coach Kennedy can provide entry information at DSN 350-6199 or 350-7299, at civilian phone number (49) (0)160-257-8182. His e-mail is Steve_Kennedy@eu.oddedee.edu.

The Ramstein meet is for high school grapplers only. Izzo can provide information at DSN 480-6951 or via e-mail at David_Izzo@eu.oddedee.edu.

The 2004-05 season begins wrapping up with regional qualifying meets at Aviano, Ramstein, Gies-sen, Lakenheath and a site to be determined. Top regional performers then advance to the European championships Feb. 18-19 in Wiesbaden.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryanr@mail.estrps.osd.mil



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Würzburg's Jesse Painter lost the 125-pound title match in the Division I championships last season but bounced back to win the European title a week later. He'll try to make it two in a row this season.

Air Force shakes off slow start vs. N. Colo.

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Matt McCraw scored 17 points and Air Force overcame a slow start to defeat Northern Colorado 63-54 on Thursday night.

Air Force (5-2) fell behind 7-0 after missing its first eight shots and hit just 37 percent from the field in the first half.

Nick Welch hit a three-pointer to give the Falcons their first lead at 13-12 and Air Force led 29-24 at halftime.

Welch finished with 15 and Antoine Hood had 10.

Sean Nolen and Erik Olson each had 12 points for Northern Colorado (1-7), which is playing its second season in Division I-A.

Nolen's 10-foot jumper late in the first half briefly tied the game 24-24.

Air Force improved to 55 percent from the field in the second half and built a 56-46 lead with 3:37 left. Northern Colorado, which shot 51 percent for the game, managed to cut the deficit to six in the late going.



Air Force's Nick Welch drives past Northern Colorado's James Randle for a basket during the second half of the Falcons' 63-54 victory.

Mississippi St. wakes up to beat S. Alabama

The Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury wondered if the Bulldogs were already looking ahead to their next game.

Then, Lawrence Roberts took over.

Roberts scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half to lead No. 15 Mississippi State to a 66-52 victory over South Alabama on Thursday night. Roberts, a pre-season All-American and last season's Southeastern Conference player of the year, also had 13 rebounds.

"They just decided for the whole game — particularly the first half — that if he (Roberts) touches the ball, someone else is going to have to score," Stansbury said. "We're going to see a lot of that all year long."

Shane Power added 16 points and Winsome Frazier had 12 for the Bulldogs (6-1), who took control by opening the second half with a 16-4 run. Mississippi State shook off an eight-day layoff and won its third straight since losing to Syracuse two weeks ago.

Mario Jinter led South Alabama (2-3) with 15 points.

Before the game, some Mississippi State players approached their coach and asked about Sun-

day's game against No. 21 Arizona in the Wooden Classic in Anaheim, Calif.

"I told them we have South Alabama to contend with first," Stansbury said.

Some Mississippi State players shrugged off the suggestion that at least once in a while, they looked past the Jaguars.

"I don't think we did," Frazier said. "But if we did, we shouldn't have."

South Alabama, which trailed by 16 with 6:23 remaining, got no closer than nine the rest of the way and had just two points in the final 3:58.

The Jaguars — who entered making nearly half of their field-goal attempts — were held to 34 percent (20-for-59) shooting for the game, and just 27 percent in the second half.

"We've got to grow up," South Alabama coach John Pelphrey said. "At times, we looked really impressive. Other times, we looked like we didn't know each other at all."

Mississippi State improved to 9-0 against South Alabama, and 39-3 in non-conference home games under Stansbury.

Mississippi State transfer Stephen Cowherd's basket gave South Alabama its final lead at 29-28 with 1:07 in the half.

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SPORTS



Baseball owners give conditional approval to Expos' move to Washington D.C., Page 33

Bonds testified to steroid use



San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds reportedly admitted during grand jury testimony that he unknowingly took steroids from BALCO.

Giants slugger admitted taking substances from BALCO, but denied knowing they were drugs

BY LANCE WILLIAMS AND
MARK FAINARU-WADA
San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds told a federal grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream supplied by the Burlingame laboratory now enmeshed in a sports doping scandal, but he said he never thought they were steroids, The San Francisco Chronicle has learned.

Federal prosecutors charge that the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative, known as BALCO, distributed undetectable steroids to elite athletes in the form of a clear substance that was taken orally and a cream that was rubbed onto the body.

Bonds testified that he had received and used clear and cream substances from his personal strength trainer, Greg Anderson, during the 2003 baseball season but was told they were the nutritional supplement flaxseed oil and a rubbing balm for arthritis, according to a transcript of his testimony reviewed by The Chronicle.

Federal prosecutors confronted Bonds during his testimony on Dec. 4, 2003, with documents indicating he had used steroids and human growth hormone during a three-year assault on baseball's home run record, but the Giants star denied the allegations.

During the three-hour proceeding, two prosecutors presented Bonds with documents that allegedly detailed his use of a long list of drugs: human growth hormone, Depo-Testosterone, undetectable steroids known as "the cream" and "the clear," insulin and Clomid, a drug for female infertility sometimes used to enhance the effect of testosterone.

The documents, many with Bonds' name on them, are dated from 2001 through 2003. They include a laboratory test result that could reflect steroid use and what appeared to be schedules of drug use with billing information, prosecutors told the grand jury.

In a September 2003 raid on Anderson's Burlingame home, federal investigators seized documents they said showed Bonds was using banned drugs, according to court records. Anderson was indicted in February on charges of money laundering and conspiracy to distribute steroids in the BALCO case.

Bonds' attorney, Michael Rains, said he was upset, though not entirely surprised, his client's secret testimony had been revealed.

He said he had no proof but suspected the

■ **Giambi's testimony could prompt Yankees to terminate contract**

■ **BALCO founder says he supplied sprinter Jones with drugs**

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government was the source of the leak, insisting it had been out to get Bonds from the beginning.

"My view has always been this case has been the U.S. vs. Bonds, and I think the government has moved in certain ways in a concerted effort to indict my client," Rains said. "And I think their failure to indict him has resulted in their attempts to smear him publicly."

Attorney Anna Ling, who along with J. Tony Serra represents Anderson, said a court order precluded her from commenting on grand jury testimony.

According to the transcript, two prosecutors queried Bonds closely about the documents, at times going over them line by line.

But Bonds said he had no knowledge of the doping calendars and other records that indicated he had used banned drugs. He said he had never paid Anderson for steroids and had never knowingly used them.

And he said he was confident that his trainer hadn't slipped him banned drugs without his knowledge, saying Anderson "wouldn't jeopardize our friendship" by doing that.

Bonds testified he had never discussed steroids with his trainer.

To the prosecutors, the substances Bonds said he was using sounded like "the cream" and "the clear," two steroids designed to be undetectable in laboratory testing that Victor Conte, founder of BALCO, is accused of marketing to elite athletes.

Bonds said that as far as he knew, Anderson had given him only legal products to treat the arthritis and fatigue that afflicted him, especially when playing a day game after a night game. The trainer brought the products into the Giants' clubhouse at Pae Bell Park "once a home stand," Bonds said, and that's where he used them.

"I never asked Greg" about what the products contained, Bonds testified. "When he said it was flaxseed oil, I just said, 'Whatever.'"

SEE BONDS ON PAGE 34

Broken hand, hurt shoulder can't keep Gradowski and Toledo from MAC championship

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Nowitzki scores NBA season high 53 as Mavericks overcome McGrady, Rockets in Texas showdown

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Plenty of power at the top in DODDS-Europe wrestling

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